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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What did you do with your stimulus check?

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INSIDE

Small Biz Month

Gov. Benigo Fitial declared June the Small Business Development Month for the 11th consecutive year.

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Universal Fire

A fire ripped through a lot at Universal Studios, destroying a set, an exhibit and a streetscape.

NATION...Page 15

'Sex' Sells

Sarah Jessica Parker and her gal pals have not lost their sex appeal.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

'…[state] without reservation that it is my intention to take all measures to terminate the emergency declaration as soon as possible and preferably within 30 days.'

— Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

'CPA emergency not permanent'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial says he plans to end the emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Ports Authority as soon as possible.

Fitial, in a report to the Legislature, said he had no intention to keep CPA permanently under his direct control. Proof of this was his decision to limit the reorganization order to 120 days.

"I…[state] without reservation that it is my intention to take all measures to termi-

See CPA on Page 4

WOMEN'S EXHIBIT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Council for Arts and Culture special assistant to the director Mona Rebuenog checks out the traditional Carolinian bead work called "Lighatutuur" during the opening of the Annual Women's Exhibit on Capital Hill Monday morning. The handicraft was made by artist Josephine Niro and is displayed inside the CNMI Gallery for Arts and Culture. The regular exhibit hours will be 9am to 7pm on weekdays and from 9am to 12pm on Saturdays. The event, which features creations made by the women of the community, will run until July 3.

Extensive outages hit Saipan anew

Only two engines are working at Power Plant 1

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan experienced extensive power outages yesterday after two engines at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base went down, resulting in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. failing to generate enough power for the entire island grid.

CUC was 12.7 megawatts short of the power it needed to fully energize

See EXTENSIVE on Page 4

Ports chief Lee Cabrera steps down

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The management turnover at the Commonwealth Ports Authority continues, as acting executive director Lee Cabrera becomes the third top official to leave in one year.

Cabrera will step down from his post on July 31, 2008. He has worked in government for about 15 years,

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$700,000 grant funds approved for NMI. PAGE 2

'Up to 7 firms submitted green energy proposals' PAGE 3

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Local

$700,000 grant funds approved for NMI

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Office of Insular Affairs has approved federal grants worth over $700,000 for the Northern Marianas.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who met with the federal officials during a recent trip to the States, announced yesterday that the CNMI would receive federal grants for four programs.

OIA will release $360,000 for an organizational review at the Commonwealth Health Center, $220,000 for the CNMI's geothermal power project, $105,000 for the Saipan Zoning Board, and $50,000 for a study of the Commonwealth's economy.

The Fitial administration welcomed the federal aid. "This is good news for the commonwealth," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

He said the CHC funds would assist in streamlining the Commonwealth's only hospital and preparing it for future autonomy.

The federal money is also seen to boost efforts to reduce the Northern Marianas' reliance on fossil fuel by developing a geothermal power plant in Pagan. The governor has hired Dr. James E. Quick, a volcano expert that previously worked at U.S. Geological Survey, to study the feasibility of geothermal power for the Commonwealth.

Further, the aid is expected to help the Zoning Board in implementing the new zoning law and in making the Garapan business district more family-oriented.

Richard A. Pierce, the governor's special assistant for trade relations and economic affairs, said the $50,000 grant is for the extra work required of the economists who are conducting a study of the CNMI economy. The federally funded study has been expanded to include the recent enactment of the immigration "federalization" measure.

Reyes also said the Commonwealth is awaiting the federal government's approval of a $5.8-million reprogramming request for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Northern Marianas College.

At least $5 million in federal funds was previously reprogrammed to finance the repair of generators at Saipan's main power plant. NMC, which is on the brink of losing its accreditation, also needs money to meet the requirements set by its accrediting commission.

Muna: CUC probe on illegal hook-ups an ongoing process

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s investigation into people or businesses hooking up illegally to the power grid is an ongoing process, according to CUC executive director Antonio Muna.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Muna said they've got people in the field who are making observations on power tampering.

When asked if CUC has information as to the percentage of customers involved in illegal connections, Muna said he is not sure.

He said that until CUC has the numbers of people engaged in tampering, the utility agency will not determine as to what extent the illegal connection contributes to the rising power rates situation.

"But anytime anyone steals power and is not paying their fair share, that means that everybody else has to pay whatever these folks don't pay. So it does affect the power [but] as to what extent does it affects rates at this point I'm not sure," Muna said.

He assumes that there is tampering going on, especially under the current circumstances.

"What can we do to catch them? That's something that we need to probably have a better handle on, coming up maybe with a better plan to start the process of sweeping the area and seeing what can be done to pinpoint the tampering issues," Muna said.

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Marianas High School's Class of 2008 march inside the campus gymnasium after their graduation ceremony Saturday afternoon.

Bermudes and Ermitanio top MHS graduates

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Marianas High School held its graduation ceremony last Saturday at their school's gymnasium, honoring Kristina Bermudes and Ann Rochelle Ermitanio as the top student of the year.

This year, there were 213 graduates, resulting in a crowd of approximately over 500 people inside the Marianas High School gymnasium.

This year's graduation theme was "A trip to let go of, a memory to hold on to."

Valedictorian Kristina Bermudes, 17, not only received the Board of Education award but is also a Joeten Foundation scholarship grantee and a Robert Byrd Scholarship recipient.

She is the daughter of House of Representatives legal counsel Joe Bermudes and Senate clerk Dolores Bermudes at the Legislative Bureau.

"We're very proud of her. Usually she does her homework on her own. Sometimes she will ask me for help on math. I used to teach math in Marianas High School, so I know very much how to help her," said Joe.

"I am very happy and glad and also surprised at her accomplishments. I very proud that she managed to get this far," said Doris.

Kristina Bermudes plans to go to the University of California and major in a pre-Medicine course.

KRISTINA BERMUDES
Valedictorian

ANN ROCHELLE ERMITANIO
Salutatorian

Salutatorian Ann Rochelle Ermitanio, 17, not only received the Commissioner's Award but also the Mayor's Community Service Award. She is the daughter of Mercy and Edward Ermitanio.

Besides academics, Ermitanio is also active and shines in many school activities, including the National Forensic League, National Honor Society, AmeriCorps, Junior Statesmen of America, and Teen Talk.

"I really have mixed emotions about graduating. I felt happy when I first knew that I was Salutatorian, but I also felt sad, as I knew that the last days of my senior years were coming," said Ermitanio.

She will be going to college in the Emory University in Atlanta and will major in neuroscience and behavioral biology.

The graduation ceremony also honoured other awardees.

Amada T. Rabauliman was awarded the Governor's Award. The Principal's Award went to Edgardo Macabalo, and the MHS Alumni Award went to Andrew Benavente.

The graduating class' top ten were Kristina Bermudes, Ann Rochelle Ermitanio, Bryan T. Demapan, Eugene F. Solomon, Maria Agnes Constante, Syrille D. Manacop, Joy Donato, Chellah Ann Sablan, Rachel Ashley P. Reyes, and Josefa Carmen Untalan.

Stellar Marianas president and *Marianas Variety* general manager Laila Y. Boyer was the keynote speaker for the event.

'Up to 7 firms submitted green energy proposals'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About six or seven companies have submitted proposals to provide renewable energy to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., according to CUC executive director Antonio Muna.

Muna told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that CUC is now in the process of putting together the committee that will review the proposals.

Muna said Gov. Benigno Fitial wants his alternative energy advisor, Dr. James Quick, to also be involved in the process.

"So we are trying to coordinate that. And hopefully we'll begin the process," he said.

The renewable energy project is another thing that CUC is hoping will happen over the next six to 12 months, the CUC official said.

Fitial earlier disclosed that more than a dozen companies have expressed interest in the renewable energy project.

The governor said the firms are interested in submitting proposals across a wide range of green technologies, including wind, solar, biodiesel, ocean waves, and geothermal, among other options.

May 16 was the deadline of submission of proposals.

CUC hopes to enter into long-term performance contracts with firms that will be fully responsible for building and running the utility's renewable power generation projects.

CUC issued the request for proposals in accordance with Public Law 15-23 or the Commonwealth's Green Energy Law.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial joins Philippine Consul General to the CNMI Wilfredo DL. Maximo, Labor Representative Joan Lourdes Lavilla, OWWA welfare officer Leonor Mabagal, Romy Gatchitorena, Paul Paguon, Rey Madredejos, United Filipino Organization's Flor Miranda, Ed Reyes, Olive Yana, Minda Castro, Nel Matanguihan, Ed Caranzo, Pauline Perez and Lyn Galvez after signing the proclamation declaring the week of June 8-14, 2008 as Northern Mariana Islands-Philippines Friendship Week at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Monday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Fitial proclaims CNMI-RP Friendship Week

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday proclaimed June 8 to 14, 2008 as Northern Mariana Islands-Philippines Friendship Week.

The Philippines will mark the 110th anniversary of its independence from Spanish colonization on June 12, 2008.

The governor called on the Commonwealth's residents to help the Filipino community on island in commemorating the event.

"As governor of the CNMI, I [would] like to recognize the important cultural and economic contributions of the Filipinos and those of Filipino ancestry to the socio-economic progress of the Commonwealth," he said in the proclamation.

"In [an] unmistakable demonstration of our timeless appreciation for the many valuable contributions, we extend our hands in a spirit of goodwill, friendship, and understanding to further strengthen and enhance our harmonious and mutually beneficial relations," he added.

For centuries, Fitial noted, Chamorros, Carolinians, and Filipinos have shared parallel histories, customs, traditions, and values. He said the people of the CNMI and the Philippines now "enjoy the best relations, and a healthy exchange of goods and services abounds between our two Pacific island communities."

Fitial also used the proclamation signing to defend his opposition to immigration "federalization," which he said is often misconstrued as against foreign workers.

Although the recently enacted law does not offer an improved immigration status for the guest workers in the Commonwealth, many in the foreign workers community are hoping that the federal government's imminent takeover of CNMI immigration would eventually lead to their being granted the right to permanent residence.

Fitial said his opposition to the measure was mainly for economic reasons. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Suspect in copyright case gains more time

The federal court has given a defense lawyer and his client more time to prepare for the trial related to the video shop raided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, during which thousands of alleged pirated DVDs and VHS tapes were seized.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted the request of attorney Bruce Berline and his client, Il Cho, more time to prepare and waived defendant's right to speedy trial. Cho was the manager of the video shop.

Munson set the trial date for Sept. 8, 2008 at 9am.

Berline also moved to have the date for pretrial motions extended to June 27, 2008. Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley did not object. The judge also granted the motion.

Munson allowed Cho to remain at liberty under the same terms and conditions as the court had previously set.

On April 14, 2008, the FBI Cho arrested Cho and his employee following the FBI's raid at Seoul Video Store in Chalan Kanoa.

Cho, 46, and Min Jo, 50, both Koreans, were arrested for three counts of copyright infringement.

An FBI agent said that during their search at the Seoul Video Store last March 26, they seized thousands of DVDs and VHS tapes of currently released motion pictures, 32 DVD and VHS players/recorder, 10 boxes of blank DVDRs, 26 boxes of label paper, 10 boxes of VHS labels, 10 DVD "burners", six bottles of printing ink, and several pages of DVD labels.

The agent said that Cho and Jo admitted to him that they purchased the DVDs from Korea and were copying them onto VHS tapes for sale and rent to customers. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DETAINED AP

Evan Montvel Cohen is pictured in this photo provided by the Guam Department of Corrections after he was taken into custody on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 in Guam. Cohen, managing director of Sorensen Media Group, was detained upon return to Guam International Airport from Manila on charges contained in an indictment returned by a grand jury in Honolulu, according to officials of the U.S. territory.

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Clinton urges voting rights in American Samoa

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—Sen. Hillary Clinton has called on the United States government to allow American Samoans to vote in that country's presidential elections.

Chairwoman of the United States Election Assistance Commission, Rosemary Rodriguez told the Samoa Observer that Senator Clinton has raised the same issue for voters in Puerto Rico and Guam.

"They've already had the primaries in American Samoa," said Mrs Rodriguez, who spoke to the journalists on the US State Department's "The Nuts & Bolts of an American Election: An Insider Look at How to Run an Election" tour. "And there has been discussion since the (last) weekend about giving them full voting rights in the presidential election. Senator Clinton raised the possibility and she's very keen on it, judging from her comments."

Earlier this year, American Samoa Governor Togiola Tulafono endorsed Clinton for the Presidential race, ahead of Barack Obama.

"I believe in Senator Hillary Clinton because she talks like one of us, and she inspires confidence, warmth, and trust for all people," Governor Togiola is quoted as saying at the time.

Another prominent American Samoa leader, Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde, former member of the American Samoa House of Representatives and of the Democratic National Committee, said: "At a time when our country faces so many complex challenges, we need a leader with the strength and the experience to make change happen starting from day one. That leader is Hillary Clinton."

Although residents in US territories can vote in the nominating contests, they can not cast ballots in the US general election, in November.

Mrs Rodriguez said it "would be difficult to confer full voting rights on American Samoans without "statehood."

"And I don't know if they (American Samoa) even want that statehood," she said.

"I think that if this conversation proceeds, we're going to have to know what they want, what would be best for the United States and I think it will take a long time to figure it out.

I do know that we work with them, we fund their voting equipment because they elect a representative, not a voting representative, but a representative to the Congress. They qualify for our funds."

The issue of voting rights for American Samoans has been a delicate one for some time.

At the beginning of the year, American writer Jonathan Rubin questioned the US government over American Samoa's voting rights.

In a piece titled "Can American Samoans Vote? Can they affect the presidential race?" he wrote:

"After losing the Jan. 26 South Carolina primary to Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton pledged to continue her fight for the White House.

"She said, 'We now turn our attention to the millions of Americans who will make their voices heard in Florida and the 22 other states as well as American Samoa who will vote on February 5.'"

"Wait a second, what kind of voting rights do they have in Samoa?

Very few. The 57,000 residents of American Samoa, a tiny group of islands near Australia, cannot vote in national elections, but they do hold presidential primaries and send nine delegates to the nominating conventions for each party.

Most years, this handful has little effect on the outcomes at the conventions. (For comparison, Florida sends 114 delegates.) But in a tight race like that between Democrats Obama and Clinton, every delegate might come into play, so candidates reach out to smaller and smaller constituencies for votes."

"Beyond the presidential primaries, territories like American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S."

Virgin Islands have limited voting powers. Their inability to participate on the federal level results from the status of their residents: American Samoans are considered U.S. nationals, not citizens.

"They can elect one nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, who is permitted to cast votes on amendments to a bill but not its final passage. (The 580,000 U.S. citizens living in Washington, D.C., get the same deal in Congress. But they can vote for president, sending three members to the Electoral College.)"

"American Samoa became a U.S. territory in 1900, but it didn't get its congressional delegate or the right to hold presidential primaries until 1981. With one exception in 1996, Democratic residents of the islands have always gone to the polls on Super Tuesday. (Republicans will vote on Feb. 23.) This year, for the first time, American Samoa will keep the polls open only from 9 to 11 a.m., so the announcement of the results will coincide with those in the United States many time zones away.

"No presidential candidate has ever visited American Samoa, but both Sens. Clinton and Obama have local campaign offices. The Clinton campaign announced Jan. 11 that it had gained the endorsement of American Samoa Gov. Togiola T.A. Tulafono and other Samoan delegates."

Cook Islands' $10M China loan still in limbo

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Cook Islands has still received no official word from the China Exim Bank regarding their US$10 million loan to build a sports stadium and upgrade venues on the main island Rarotonga for next year's mini games.

China had approved the soft loan earlier this year, but put its decision on hold following changes to the stadium plans by the Cook Islands Investment Corporation.

The Minister for the CIIC, Tangata Vavia, says he's been told the Bank has now assessed the new plans.

"I'm expecting anytime in the future to hear from them as to the final result of their discussion."

However, the Minister says while he couldn't say when they will hear from the Chinese, he's hopeful the response will be positive.

HEADSTART PROMOTION JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ

Oleai Elementary School held its Head Start Completion Ceremony on Friday at the school campus, with 62 students ranging in ages from 3 to 5 years old being promoted to the next level. The students recited a poem called "Whose Child Is This?", sang and danced to a medley of songs. Reyna Saures served as emcee for the day while the guest speakers were Central Parents Involvement Committee officers: president Joe Saures, vice- president Levita Cho, and secretary and treasurer Maricar Guintu.

EXTENSIVE

From Page 1

the system.

As a result, CUC extended the power rotation from 4pm to 12am, on top of the contingency load shedding that started at 8am yesterday.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna told the media that due to mechanical problems at engines No. 3 and 6, CUC expanded the load shedding schedule by another eight hours beginning at 4pm.

"If all the engines were up at Power Plant 1, we would have 81.2 megawatts available. As of this morning we only had 13 megawatts available," Muna said.

He said only engines No. 2 and 8 were working, producing 13 megawatts of power. In addition, CUC gets 1.8 megawatts from Power Plant 2 and 13.5 megawatts from Power Plant 4.

"We only had 28.3 megawatts to address roughly about 41 megawatts of the required power at peak load. So we're short by about 12.7 megawatts," Muna explained.

He said engine No. 3 normally produces 5 megawatts, while engine No. 6 is capable of 8 megawatts.

"Because of the problem they've been having, we're without the services of those engines. They're undergoing emergency maintenance," he said.

Muna said CUC is hopeful that engine No. 3 could be up later last night.

"However, engine No. 6 will most likely continue to be a challenge and may be a two- or three-day effort before it gets up," he said.

"What we are relying on for power on Saipan is engines 2, 3, 6, and 8. So we are using four engines to power up Saipan. But unfortunately 3 and 6 are down. So we're short," he added.

CPA

From Page 1

nate the emergency declaration as soon as possible and preferably within 30 days," he said.

The Legislature has rejected Fitial's executive order placing CPA under the Governor's Office. But the governor maintains control of the ports authority because he signed a separate order declaring CPA under a state of emergency. The emergency declaration will remain in effect until June 11, 2008—30 days after it was signed.

Because of financial problems, CPA was on the verge of technical default on its airport revenue bond when the governor took over. CPA's bond consultants had recommended measures to prevent the default, but the board of directors failed to implement them.

The Legislature said the governor could have solved the problem by simply appointing new members to the board. But Fitial defended his move. He said the removal of board members would have delayed action, as the process of nominating and confirming appointees took time.

"To do nothing and await or invite technical default would only be shirking my constitutional obligation to act in the best interest of our people even in the face of the greatest disappointment or embarrassment of seeing such inaction by the CPA board of directors under my administration. Yet I have taken a measured response. Instead of a permanent executive order, I have limited the period to up to 120 days within which time I believe we can stabilize CPA," he said.

Since the May 12 declaration, CPA has implemented emergency measures such as raising airport rates, imposing cost-cutting measures, and ending the incentive program for airlines flying to the Northern Marianas.

Fitial said he would consider the Legislature's resolution against the executive order. Although emergency measures had been applied, CPA still needs the support of the administration, he added.

He also urged the Legislature to support allowing CPA to offset its airport utility charges against the $8 million owed it by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. CUC owes CPA $4.8 million for the airport road sewer line project, plus $3.6 million in wharfage fees.

The governor said that CUC may have to further increase its skyrocketing rates to raise the $8 million for CPA.

"It is my administration's view that allowing the offset procedure is a prudent approach for both CUC and CPA as well as our community," Fitial said. "If the Legislature disagrees, then I am happy to meet and confer on possible ways to either identify or generate funds to pay CPA approximately $8 million which would immediately improve its fiscal profile."

Meanwhile, CPA owes $6 million to the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the governor asked the Legislature to pass legislation to waive this. Fitial said it would assist COPA with respect to its 1998 seaport revenue bonds, which is a separate obligation and indenture.

The Commonwealth's seaport has seen its revenue plunge by 60 percent due to the decline of the garment industry.

PORTS

From Page 1

spending the last seven with CPA. He plans to join the private sector after his early retirement.

Cabrera said that CPA's financial troubles have nothing to do with his decision. He made up his mind in early April 2008, which is before Gov. Benigno R. Fitial suspended the CPA board of directors and took over the ports authority to stave off a technical default in its airport revenue bond.

Cabrera was put in charge of the ports authority, while the governor supervised.

"I could stay," said Cabrera, "but the situation at the Retirement Fund really worries me. We don't put in years of government service only to be told that there might not be any money for us to retire from."

According to the NMI Retirement Fund, the pension fund will only last another 10 years if the lack of cash inflow forces the program to continue liquidating assets at the current rate of about $45 million a year.

CPA has had substantial turnover in key management personnel since Clyde Norita resigned in May 2007. Airport fire chief Stanley Torres took over from Norita, heading CPA until his resignation in January 2008. Cabrera, who officially heads the seaport division, was named to serve as executive director in an acting capacity.

The ports authority has also been without a comptroller since the resignation of George Palican in February 2007. Frances Mafnas currently serves as acting comptroller.

Several other key positions at CPA are vacant at present, leaving it unclear as to who might succeed Cabrera. CPA has no one occupying the positions of deputy director, airport manager, and seaport manager.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Flame Tree Fest's return to AMP looks rosy

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reports that the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is working closely with officials of the American Memorial Park to bring back the next Flame Tree Festival to the park is no longer just a rumor.

"We have cleared all the issues and concerns as to how to get back into the park without having to pay the insurance policy and daily rate usage fee," said CCAC executive director Cecilia T. Celes. "According to the superintendent herself [Sarah Creachbaum], those issues can be resolved and they will be by being waived."

Celes said, however, that there are "very minimal" fees that can't be waived, but are affordable to CCAC, the Flame Tree Festival Committee and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Some of the "minimal fees" include the application fee and the deposit for waste and cleanup.

According to Celes, the recent meeting with the AMP superintendent was "very fruitful."

"It was a very positive and good meeting. The feeling during the meeting was not to bring back old issues, or pinpoint who was or who didn't. The approach was 'How can we work in partnership to make it work,'" said the executive director.

"I, for a fact, was very pleased with the outcome. I am happy for our community, our festival and our local artisans as well as the vendors involved in the annual important event. Together, CCAC and the Park have an understanding and further communications can be provided at a later time," said Celes.

For the past two Flame Tree Arts Festival, the event was held at the Civic Center in Susupe.

According to Celes, there have been "some issues in the past that we faced, such as federal regulations, insurance policies that we needed to provide, and the fee to host the site that we had to pay and with the very little budget that we operate on, we couldn't have hosted it there."

The CCAC saw that, although the Department of Public Lands allowed the Flame Tree Arts Festival to be held at Civic Center, there was limited parking space, therefore not drawing as much crowd as it would have if hosted at the American Memorial Park, where there is more ample parking.

"It is confirmed to state, though, that we are forging a better relationship as well as partnership [with the American Memorial Park]," Celes said.

CONGRATULATION!

Merry Joy Ison Yamanaka, who graduated cum laude with an associate degree in Business Administration at the Northern Marianas College, has her picture taken with NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez after the commencement exercise.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Democratic Party meeting tomorrow

The Democratic Party (NMI) will hold a general membership meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at 6pm at the Garapan Central Park. Important matters to be discussed, including the reorganization of the Central Executive Committee and upcoming CNMI delegate election.

S&NISWCD meeting in June

The Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their monthly meeting S&NISWCD meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 1pm at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office. For more information contact our office at 234-6180. ***(PR)***

MHS Class on 1988 meeting on June 5

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting again on June 5, 2008, 6:30pm at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School.

It was decided on Thursday, May 15, 2008, meeting to extend the dateline for payments to June 5, 2008. Classmates are being encouraged to turn in there payments by then.You can contact our Treasurer Ms. Melissa D. Diaz at 285-2624. ***(PR)***

Vendors sought for Games, tournament

The 2008 Oceania Games will be held on June 21-28, 2008 at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Asia Pacific Little League Tournament will be held on June 25 through July 6, 2008 at the Francisco Palacios Baseball Field.

In consideration of these upcoming special events, interested vendors who wish to sell food, snacks and drinks (no alcoholic beverages allowed) during these games are requested to submit/fax their proposals to the Sports and Recreation Office at 664-2510 no later than Friday, June 13, 2008 for consideration. Concessionaires are limited to only six vendors. ***(PR)***

Green Meadow School announcements

Green Meadow School opens their Summer Classes for SY 2007-2008. They are offering Computer, Music, Art and the 3'Rs (Reading, Writing & Arithmetic) for the following two sessions:

- First Sessions: June 2 - July 4, 2008 (5 weeks)
- Second Session: July 7 - Aug. 8, 2008 (5 weeks)
- Fees: $200/per session (whole day); $100/per session (half day)

Enrollment for School Year 2008 - 2009 is now going on! School starts Aug. 11, 2008. ***(PR)***

New schedule for public library

The following is the new schedule of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library:

- Monday-CLOSED
- Tuesday-9am-5pm
- Wednesday-9am-5pm
- Thursday-9am-5pm
- Friday-9am-5pm
- Saturday-9am-5pm
- Sunday-CLOSED
- Government Holidays-CLOSED

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Lynch graduates from the US Naval Academy

On May 23, 2008, the CNMI's own Caroline Claire Lynch graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and was commissioned as an Ensign into the U.S. Navy.

She was among the 1,037 young men and women who successfully completed "four years by the Bay" to take their hard-earned places in America's military service.

Caroline Lynch and Christine Torres, who graduated two days prior from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, have the noteworthy distinction of being the first females from the Northern Marianas to graduate from the United States Service Academies.

Lynch, the daughter of Margaret Rayburn, grew up and attended school on Saipan. She attended the Northern Marianas Academy and graduated from Saipan Southern High School in December 2003, completing her course work a semester early.

While in high school, she participated in volleyball and outrigger canoeing with both Marianas and Southern High School teams. She was also a member of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Program. She has a sister, Violet, currently attending Bennington College in Vermont.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Margaret Rayburn and her daughters Caroline and Violet proudly display the CNMI flag that was waved during Caroline's USNA graduation ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ensign Caroline Claire Lynch is surrounded by family and friends shortly after her graduation ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

Many family members and friends traveled long distances from throughout the U.S. to witness her graduation. Several staff of the Office of the Resident Representative also attended the event on behalf of Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio.

Lynch was Resident Representative Tenorio's first nominee to the U.S Service Academies. Having such strong credentials in high school, she was actually accepted into both the Naval Academy in Annapolis and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

"I congratulate Caroline on such an outstanding accomplishment. She has honored the CNMI through her stellar performance at the Naval Academy, one of the best educational institutions in the country, and has a bright future ahead of her in the U.S. Navy. She is an extraordinary young woman, and we should all be very proud of her. I have no doubt she will be a model Naval Officer and an exceptional leader of our great country," said Tenorio.

Lynch received a Bachelor of Science in English. Her next duty station will be in Norfolk, Virginia as crew member on the DDG 61 *Ramage*. The USS *Ramage* is an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer designed for combat operations against surface, air and sub-surface threats.

"I would encourage anybody thinking of going to a service academy to most definitely go for it. It was an amazing experience, a great education, and you have a guaranteed job at the end of it. It is really important to pay back what those who have gone before us have done, especially being from the Northern Marianas, where the military has had such an impact on all of our lives. The United States Armed Forces have an incredible history of service above self, in addition to forging young people into leaders of character," said Lynch.

"While my Naval Academy experience was most definitely a challenge, it was the experience of a lifetime. If you are interested in applying for a nomination to one of the Service Academies (Army, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard), keep your grades up, get involved with your community, and enroll in a JROTC program. The early training I received with Manta Ray Battalion at SSHS stood me in good stead when I started out at the Naval Academy. At school, make sure you take a lot of math and science, as you will use it!" added Lynch. ***(PR)***

Ogumoro and Ermitanio top KagES graduates

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jackie Ogumoro made her parents and family members proud after reaping the most number of awards during Friday's Kagman Elementary School sixth grade farewell ceremony.

Ogumoro received this year's Commissioner's Award, the highest honor. She also received the top recognition in subject awards in Language Arts, Social Studies, and Carolinian.

Ogumoro said she was very excited to receive the school's most prestigious award and would like to thank all her teachers who have taught her in previous years for encouraging her to do her very best.

"I also want to thank my fellow classmates for being supportive of each other when we all needed help because either we are not listening to our teacher, or the problem was just so challenging," Ogumoro said.

Ogumuro, who is the daughter of Joe and Therese Ogumoro, also encouraged all of her classmates to look forward to more achievements in junior high, high school, and college.

"Let's all look forward to that. Let's all do our very best. And let's all make a difference in our lives," Ogumoro said.

Jaydene Ermitanio received the Principal's Award, the second highest honor. She dedicated her achievement to her parents for all the mentorship, guidance, and support they have given her throughout her life.

Ermitanio, who received the Best in Math award, was elected by her peers as president of the student council. She said the experience has only given her the opportunity to learn the challenges of responsibility and how to manage time between school and home.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Kagman Elementary School students listen to the speaker during their promotional ceremony Friday.

JACKIE OGUMORO
Commissioner's Award

JAYDENE ERMITANIO
Principal's Award

Other members of the top 10 were Mirika Talalemotu, Maricar Navisaga, Nicollete Ngirausui, Dionne Deleon Guerrero, Emmalou Cabrera, Nathan Angui, Jeromalyn Santos, and Amanda Atalig.

Talalemotu received the award for Best in Science, Raymond Nakazato received the award for Best in Fine Arts, Jaime Mangloa received Best in Physical Education, and both Angui and Ngirausui received Best in Chamorro Bilingual.

Christine Route received this year's Peace Builder award.

National Trails Day in the CNMI

Beautify CNMI! Parks & Trails is planning to participate in the American Hiking Society's National Trails Day on Saturday, June 7, by going for a hike on Saipan at 9am. Please join us for this nationwide event by hiking in appreciation of our islands hiking trails. See: http://www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx.

The trail we chose is the Laderan Tangke Trail. The parking lot is on the left side on the way up to the old radar station. Take the road just past the old Fiesta Mall on the right, across from Pau Pau Beach and follow the road up. We will meet at the trail head at 9am on Saturday morning on June 7. We will begin by having a brief talk concerning the event, followed by trail ethics, and safety.

There are two trail options: one group can take the loop trail that returns to the Laderan Tangke parking lot and trailhead, and the second group, led by Jim Benedetto, can choose to go on the trail to Bird Island Lookout and catch a ride back from there in a vehicle HHH style.

Hikers, please be prepared to have fun and enjoy the trail: Bring proper clothing, hiking shoes, water, and sun protection.

Estimated hiking time is one hour if you are quick, but more like 1.5 to two hours.

Take only pictures and memories, and leave the trail in as good a condition, or better, as you found it. ***(PR)***

Driver's license renewal for those on active duty

CNMI residents who are on active military duty outside the Commonwealth may now renew their driver's license without having to personally appear before the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

This came about after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued a directive to BMV director Juana C. Deleon Guerrero on Friday, saying this is being done "as a small token of appreciation and esteem which the Commonwealth holds these military members."

Local law provides that all persons must be renewed in the third year following the issuance of a driver's license. However, 9 CMC 2202 (a) provides an exemption for "every person in the service of the armed forces of the United States " from license requirements.

Under the policy directive, active duty personnel stationed outside the Commonwealth shall be exempt from the requirement that they be physically present to renew their driver's license.

It says the renewal of driver's licenses by mail is a reasonable means to provide such service members with continued, valid CNMI driver's license. Renewal fees may be received by the bureau.

The Department of Public Safety shall adopt procedures necessary and appropriate, including the renewal of expired CNMI driver's license held or in the possession of active duty military personnel stationed outside the Commonwealth within one year of the effective date of the directive.

A report on the directive's implementation shall be provided to the Governor, the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate 180 days from the effective date of the directive. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MCS' Sablan joins roster of nat'l scholars society

The National Society of High School Scholars announced yesterday that Mount Carmel High School student Megan Sablan from Saipan has been selected for membership.

The Society recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence. The announcement was made by NSHAA Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

Sablan

"On behalf of NSHSS, I an honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Megan Sablan has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said Nobel. "Megan Sablan is now a member of a unique community of scholars – a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

"Our vision is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities," stated NSHSS president James Lewis. "We aim to help students like Megan Sablan build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community."

Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free event, member-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, online forums, personalized recognition items, publicity honors.

Formed in 2202, The National Society of High School Scholars recognizes academic excellence at the high school level and encourages members of the organization to apply their talents, vision, and potential for the betterment of themselves and the world. Currently, there are more the 300,000 Society members in over 120 countries. NSHSS provides scholarship opportunities for deserving young people.

For more information about NSHSS, visit www.nshss.org. ***(PR)***

Saipan Chamber to introduce 6 scholars in monthly meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its monthly general membership meeting tomorrow, June 4, Saipan World Resort ballroom.

Chamber executive director Kyle Calabrese said that this Wednesday's general membership meeting is special—"It is the day that we introduce the six recipients of the Chamber's 2008 scholarships."

These six college-bound students were chosen from among a record-setting group of 28 eligible applicants, all of whom were interviewed by the Scholarship Committee over a two-week period.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, meeting fees are $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the general public.

"Please be sure to join us and meet and congratulate the scholarship recipients," said Calabrese. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Dog show gains support

Thanks to numerous community leaders, PAWS and Beautify CNMI! will be awarding great pet-care items at this year's dog show scheduled for June 7, 2008 from 4pm to 6pm.

CostCo donated nearly $800.00 in pet-care items for the dog show and PAWS rescues. Such items include Advantage for flea control, dog biscuits, dog treats, a pet pillow, puppy training pads, cat food, cat litter, and education books for children and adults.

Other community leaders, like the Pew Charitable Trust, Angil Design, Inc., and numerous CNMI residents made monetary donations. The money was used to purchase prizes such as large bags of dog food, Frontline for flea and tick control, dog toys, and *Adams* shampoo and dip for flea and tick control, just to name a few.

"We have had an amazing amount of support from the community," said PAWS vice president Melissa Simms. "And thanks to these generous donations, we will be able to award people for loving their pets. Our main objective in hosting the Dog Show is foster the human-animal bond."

The Dog Show is a free event that will be held this Saturday from 4pm to 6pm. at the CPA Airport Field, underneath the Flame Trees at the southern end of the field. Participants are encouraged to sign up early by downloading an application on-line at www.paws-saipan.org and submitting to Katie at busenkell@gmail.com no later than Thursday, June 5.

People can sign up at the show between 2:30pm and 3:30pm. There will be absolutely no entries accepted after 3:30pm. The show will start promptly at 4pm.

If people have questions about the show, contact Katie on the PAWS PTI Hotline at 285-PAWS. ***(PR)***

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8 Rota students graduate from DARE

Eighth-grade students from Rota's Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja recently graduated from the Pacific Regional Training Institute's Drug Abuse Resistance Education program.

Top Student Awards were given to Nick Mateo and Mariah Barcinas. The Leadership Award was presented to Mariah Barcinas.

The emphasis of DARE—to be safe and free from drugs and violence—is to provide or reinforce the information and skills that enable students to resist peer pressure and other influences in making personal choices.

In addition, the lessons focus on helping students manage their anger and resolve conflicts without causing harm to themselves or others and without resorting to violence or the use of alcohol and drugs. Other emphasis is directed toward helping students develop the skills and qualities needed to achieve good character and citizenship.

This is the third year the PRTI, headed by SFC Maratita, Edward, offered the program to ESFDB students. They joined other public and private schools in Guam, Japan, Hawaii, and Los Angeles in participating in various drug-free, anti-violence, and peace program activities. ***(Sgt. Ford Ebesugawa)***

ESFDB DARE/GUTS' top students Nicky Mateo and Mariah Barcinas flank Fr. Delfin Tumaca San Francisco de Borja Interim Administrator. Not in photo is PRTI supervisor SFC Edward Maratita Jr.

WSR promotes Head Start students

The William S. Reyes Elementary School held its Head Start Completion Ceremony Friday at their school campus.

The 110 graduating students, parents, and teachers celebrated with student presentations, party food and ceremonies. The students danced and sang, to much applause from a very appreciative audience.

The ceremony had awards given to outstanding parents who volunteered and who mostly help out the teachers.

"The celebration was mostly like a Family Fun Day," said Ivan Garces, a Head Start teacher for eight years now.

Parents brought traditional food for the celebration.

The head start teachers were Garces, Kimberly Delos Reyes, Joe Cruz, Kinai Santos, Jacob Villagomez, Yoli Lely, Jackie Castro, and Melinda Diaz. There are three teachers per class sessions.

GREEN MEADOW HONOR ROLL

The Green Meadow School recognized last week its honor students during a K–3 Recognition & Graduation Ceremony for School Year 2007 – 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School K-5 students perform a song number during the school's 5th Annual Commencement Exercise last Friday at the Multi Purpose Center in Susupe.

Rayven D. Daca
A-Honor
Best in Numbers
Best in Writing
Most Diligent
PGFC Winner

Vladimir Radge S. Palma
A-Honor
Best in Phonics
Best in Art
PGFC Winner
Fastest Worker

Elaine Joy C. Fernandez
A-Honor
Best in Reading
Best in Music
Most Dependable
PGFC Winner

Rowel Jody V. Coloma
B-Honor
Best in Bible
Most Generous
PGFC Winner

Jonathan S. Wolf
B-Honor
Best in P.E.
Most Active

Victoria Ancheta
Most Polite

Nicole Sune
Most Attentive

Katty Thomas
Most Creative
Most Well Groomed
PGFC Winner

Ashley Palacios
Most Helpful

Angeline Norcio
Most Respectful

Deven G. Gima
Most improved in Reading
Most Punctual

Rian Jewel Cadag
Most Cooperative

Joseph A. Viloria
Most improved in Phonics
Most Neat

Earl Lawrence Salamat
Most improved in Speech
Most improved in Social Skills

K5 A GRADUATION CEREMONY

Dayao, Arvin S.
Most Attentive
Best in Reading
Leadership Award
Perfect Attendance
PGFC Winner
Math Court Winner
Valedictorian

Rosete, Deirdre Mae P.
Most Respectful
Best in Phonics
PGFC Winner
A-Honor

Dalusung, Alexandra Belle D.
Most Polite
Best in Science
PGFC Winner
Math Court Winner
A-Honor

Valencia, Kiana Joyce B.
Most Responsible
Most Improved in Numbers
PGFC Winner
Math Court Winner
A-Honor

De Leon, Gabriel Roy M.
Fastest Worker
Best in Writing
PGFC Winner
Math Court Winner
A-Honor

Suba, Jerique Reineer U.
Most Cooperative
Best in Bible
Math Court Winner
Perfect Attendance
A-Honor

Mallari, Isaiah Miguel A.
Well groomed
Perfect Attendance
A-Honor

Fernandez, Nehemiah C.
Most Dependable
Most Improved in Phonics
Math Court Winner
A-Honor

Dela Cruz, Kimvherly Ann P.
Most Courteous
Best in Music
A-Honor

Villones, Romualdo Raul G.
Most Thoughtful
Most Improved in Reading
Math Court Winner
A-Honor

Oropesa, Angel Mae C.
Most Neat
Most Improved in Writing
PGFC Winner
Perfect Attendance
A-Honor

Rena, Trina Marie B.
Most Creative
Most Improved in Social Studies
PGFC Winner
A-Honor

Loyola, Johara Ann R.
Most Obedient
PGFC Winner
Perfect Attendance
A-Honor

Malonzo, Jacob V.
Most Friendly
A-Honor

Alfeche, Art Vincent A.
Most Punctual

Seguritan, Elden John D.
Most Helpful

Towai, Marwin Sianny M.
Most Generous
Loyalty Award

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 03, 1999

DOLI slams INS
Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares yesterday assailed the federal government for its hypocrisy in using the CNMI immigration laws when it transferred the illegal Chinese immigrants from Guam to Tinian to make sure that they cannot seek political asylum. The US Immigration and Naturalization Service had claimed that overcrowding in the Hagatna Department of Corrections had forced them to divert to Tinian boatloads of Chinese illegals believed to be victims of human smuggling. Many of these illegals pay as much as $5,000 to be able to enter the neighboring island.

Teno reports to the Commonwealth
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio delivers today his State of the Commonwealth address that will sum up the accomplishment of his administration and spell out future actions he will undertake to deal with the continuing economic decline and worsening ties with the United States. However, Tenorio, who is serving almost halfway of his four-year term, says he sees tougher times ahead because of the worsening economic condition in the Northern Marianas.

Consortium withdraws protest on 80MW power plant
A multinational consortium opposing initial choice of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation on the contractor of its 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan has withdrawn its protests, according to a CUC statement. The consortium of Alsons, Tomen, Singapore Power and Tan Holdings Corp. retracted all its six protests filed with CUC as well as all the appeals it made to the Office of Public Auditor regarding the controversial power project.

June 03, 2002

Making NMI more visitor- and investor-friendly
With the goal of hammering out an entry policy that is visitor-friendly and a labor policy that is investor-friendly, CNMI officials sat down Saturday with consular officials from four countries to discuss ways of making the Commonwealth more attractive as a tourist site and investment destination.

Refund checks out
Good news for those expecting tax refunds for tax year 2001: The first batch of tax refund checks goes into the mail today. As for the tax rebates, Finance Secretary Frank B. Villanueva said the Department of Finance still has until October to release them, which means that the tax refunds would be processed first before the rebates.

CPA to collect $2.25 from ferry passengers per trip
The Commonwealth Ports Authority will start collecting the $2.25 terminal fee from each passenger beginning 12 midnight of June 6, 2002, to unburden Tinian Shipping and Transportation, Inc. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the move was prompted by the shipping company's outstanding debts arising from its $20,000 monthly obligation to the ports authority as payment for passenger fee.

June 03, 2003

House to Senate: Changes reflect greediness
In what appeared to be an edgy ping-pong match, the House of Representatives yesterday tossed the Commonwealth prison project financing bill back to the Senate's court, only partially agreeing to the upper house's amendments to the legislative measure that has been in limbo for months. In approving another modified version of House Bill 13-287, the House rejected the Senate's bid to increase the public debt for the prison completion from $15 million to $19 million, but agreed to the $2 million appropriation for the Rota and Tinian dialysis centers.

Senate defends prison bill amendments
The Senate leadership defended the upper house's decision to insist on securing Rota and Tinian's share in the Commonwealth prison project financing bill-House Bill 13-287-denying the action was an act of "greed." "This is not about greediness. It's about trying to get more mileage on our funding and accommodating the needs of all senatorial districts. The House can say what they want. That's why the Legislature was set up this way," Senate President Paul A. Manglona said yesterday.

Cabrera, Bocago lead SSHS commencement rites

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School held its commencement ceremony last Friday at their school campus, honoring Jolyn Antonette Cabrera and Kenrick Benjamin Decena Bocago as top students of the graduating class.

Cabrera was declared the Valedictorian, while Bocago was named Salutatorian to lead the 163 graduating class this year.

This year's graduation theme was "It's been a good time together, but the best is yet to come."

Cabrera, 17, said she doesn't feel surprised at all. "It didn't quite hit me because I knew that this was coming up, but I also feel great for my accomplishment and very excited to go to my college," said Cabrera.

She will be going to San Diego State University in two months. She wants to major in Biology. Cabrera, who was also top 2 when she graduated from Koblerville Elementary School, sends her gratitude to her family, friends and teachers.

Cabrera not only received this year's top award but also the Gates Scholarship and Board of Education award.

Bocago, 17, the son of Benjamin and Franciosa, is the youngest among three siblings and was a Valedictorian when he was in elementary.

"He is not only a smart student, but his oldest sister, Frances, was also Valedictorian, and his brother Carlo was also a top student. I really feel overwhelmed and proud of Kenrick's accomplishments," said his father, Benjamin.

Bocago managed to be a salutatorian while he working part-time for Carmen Safeway.

In his speech, Bocago shared his award with all of his fellow graduates, saying "we all have shared our parts in contributing to each other's achievements and success, as well as that of our own class."

He urged his classmates to be prepared for all future challenges. "We [should] face them with courages, patience, and dedication. We must consider these new hardships as another competition to fight, conquer, and win!"

Bocago plans to go to the University of Guam and major in Business. He has been involved with other community events like National Honor Society, Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corp, AmeriCorp, and an alter server.

The top ten SSHS students were Jolyn Antonette Cabrera, Kenrick Benjamin Decena Bocago, Jocelyn Mira Abrigo Cabrera, Hae Jun Lee, Jong Won Lee, Richille Vela Denora, Jolene Sunio Aguon, Kayla Marie Matagolai Techur, Lloyd Garcia Abigania, and Doriann Moteisou Libunao.

Top students of the Class of 2008 of the Saipan Southern High School. JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ

JOLYN ANTONETTE CABRERA
Valedictorian

KENRICK BENJAMIN DECENA BOCAGO
Salutatorian

The Top 10 students of the Saipan Southern High School. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dandan preschool promotes 16 kids

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
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JUNIOR REPORTER

The Pacific Knight Childcare and Preschool Center held its 2nd Commencement Exercise and Recognition day Saturday at their pre-school, located across Dandan Elementary School.

The children sang and danced during the occasion, to the delight of the audience composed mostly of parents, teachers, and staff.

The children were each presented with a certificate of completion.

The Awards list:

A-Honor Roll: Napu Rabago and Neil Brown Sagum (K5)/ Princess David and Jennifer Sagum

Most outstanding in Reading: Napu Rabago (K5)/ Princess David and Jennifer Sagum (K3)

Most outstanding in Language: Chricey Manglona and Neil Brown Sagum (K5)/ Chloe Ngiratrang (K3)

Best in Art: Samantha Loli Mendiola and Jose Muna (K3), Princess Lacson

Best in Writing: Chricey Manglona and Princess Lacson (K5)/ Jennifer Sagum (K3)

Most Energetic: Napu Rabago (K5)/ Carmilee Jade Perez (K3)

Most Behaved: Lana Shaye Mendiola, Jayce Gilles and Nicole Hideo (K5)

Most Industrious: Nicole Hideo, Carmilee Jade Perez and Corry Pangelinan (K3)

Most Supportive: Samantha Loli Mendiola (K3)

Most Attentive: Richard Carl Lacson (K3)

Loyalty Award: Lana Shaye Mendiola (K5), Samantha Loli Mendiola (K3)

JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
Students of the Pacific Knight Childcare and Preschool Center perform a song number during its 2nd Commencement Exercise and Recognition day Saturday.

Kindergarten 3 students recited "The Old Welsh Prayer," while the Kindergarten 5 girls performed a dance number, *Nihi Tafan*, wearing cultural outfits.

Princess David recited the poem 'Bug Sat on a Silver Flower," followed by a group that recited "The Butterfly" and sang "It's Small World" and "School Days."

Maliwat, Bayani do well at Joshua academy

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Eighteen kindergarten students recently graduated from the Joshua Generation International Academy during the school's 11th Commencement Exercise and Recognition Day held Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

The valedictorian for K-5 was Jizelle Maliwat, while the Valedictorian for K-3 was Isaiah Neil Bayani.

The parents of Isaiah Bayani, Anna Theresa and Michael Bayani, were amazed and surprised when they learned that their son was the Valedictorian. "Of course, I have so much pride and joy in him," said Anna Theresa. "It was so unexpected and I am happy for him because he is only 3 years old," she added.

"We take pride in the fruitful lives of our students. Especially today, in this ceremony, they will show their talents as ways to show their gratitude," said Joshua board of director's Lewie Adams.

JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
Eighteen kindergarten students recently graduated from the Joshua Generation International Academy during the school's 11th Commencement Exercise and Recognition Day.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Iraqi upturn

There's been a relative lull in news coverage and debate about Iraq in recent weeks—which is odd, because May could turn out to have been one of the most important months of the war. While Washington's attention has been fixed elsewhere, military analysts have watched with astonishment as the Iraqi government and army have gained control for the first time of the port city of Basra and the sprawling Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City, routing the Shiite militias that have ruled them for years and sending key militants scurrying to Iran. At the same time, Iraqi and U.S. forces have pushed forward with a long-promised offensive in Mosul, the last urban refuge of al-Qaida. So many of its leaders have now been captured or killed that U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker, renowned for his cautious assessments, said that the terrorists have "never been closer to defeat than they are now."

Iraq passed a turning point last fall when the U.S. counter-insurgency campaign launched in early 2007 produced a dramatic drop in violence and quelled the incipient sectarian war between Sunnis and Shiites. Now, another tipping point may be near, one that sees the Iraqi government and army restoring order in almost all of the country, dispersing both rival militias and the Iranian-trained "special groups" that have used them as cover to wage war against Americans. It is—of course—too early to celebrate; though now in disarray, the Mahdi Army of Moqtada al-Sadr could still regroup, and Iran will almost certainly seek to stir up new violence before the U.S. and Iraqi elections this fall. Still, the rapidly improving conditions should allow U.S. commanders to make some welcome adjustments—and it ought to mandate an already-overdue rethinking by the "this-war-is-lost" caucus in Washington, including Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill.

Gen. David H. Petraeus signaled one adjustment in recent testimony to Congress, saying that he would probably recommend troop reductions in the fall going beyond the ongoing pullback of the five "surge" brigades deployed last year. Gen. Petraeus pointed out that attacks in Iraq hit a four-year low in mid-May and that Iraqi forces were finally taking the lead in combat and on multiple fronts at once—something that was inconceivable a year ago. As a result the Iraqi government of Nouri al-Maliki now has "unparalleled" public support, as Gen. Petraeus put it, and U.S. casualties are dropping sharply. Eighteen American soldiers died in May, the lowest total of the war and an 86 percent drop from the 126 who died in May 2007.

If the positive trends continue, proponents of withdrawing most U.S. troops, such as Mr. Obama, might be able to responsibly carry out further pullouts next year. Still, the likely Democratic nominee needs a plan for Iraq based on sustaining an improving situation, rather than abandoning a failed enterprise. That will mean tying withdrawals to the evolution of the Iraqi army and government, rather than an arbitrary timetable; Iraq's 2009 elections will be crucial. It also should mean providing enough troops and air power to continue backing up Iraqi army operations such as those in Basra and Sadr City. When Mr. Obama floated his strategy for Iraq last year, the United States appeared doomed to defeat. Now he needs a plan for success.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Planetary maps

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mars

In perhaps the most important piece of news in a long time the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena has successfully landed a remotely controlled robotic explorer on the surface of our near orbit neighbor, Mars. For the first time in over 30 years we have achieved a soft landing like the one future astronauts will need to use when arriving to explore the surface of the red planet in person.

Maybe they will find useful minerals; maybe they will find it possible to terraform part of the planet for human use. They might find it basically unsuitable and then the focus should be on another planetary candidate or a moon to explore. Right now, though Mars seems to be the best candidate.

Like other advocates I dream about what the space program could have done with the hundreds of billions we have spent on Middle East and other wars. Socialists think of the welfare checks it would have bought. Ranchers think it could have put a buffalo in every pot. Too late for all of that, the moolah has long been spent and at least we got some interesting new technologies for our money. What we can do is allocate more funds in the future and make space exploration a higher priority than we have. To do so a worthy and singular goal is needed. Finding a new place to go and inventing a way to get there is such a goal.

Finding new planets to colonize and/or mine for resources should be a high priority for a species which appears likely to breed itself into abject poverty or even extinction on this mud ball we call Earth. There are only three cures for overpopulation: Reduce the birth rate, increase the death rate or find a new place to live. All but China seems willing, even eager, to continue the population explosion, so reducing birth rate is not likely. Famine, war, disease, and euthanasia are about the only real population reducers…none are too popular. That leaves us with sooner or later finding a new place to live. The faster the species breeds the sooner it will need that liebestram, that new place to park the extra human population. If we don't find a suitable planet or moon to move some of the excess people to, we will have to resort to one of the extremely unpleasant alternatives listed above.

Conservatives, which is what environmentalists really are, seek to save or conserve as much of the natural wealth of the planet as they can. That strategy simply cannot keep up with the ever increasing birth rate. Rapid technical advancements have helped improve farming, ranching and fishing efficiency but all have limits. The sad truth is that humans can reproduce faster than their own food supply.

We humans are a long way from reaching the goal of finding and learning to colonize other planets and it seems likely that famine or some other unsavory force will beat us to the punch and kill off a large segment of the population first. But we can try; and space seems like the place to find more resources and maybe even a new place to live.

■ ■ ■

Redraw the Pew map

One of the sticking points of the proposed Pew monument seems to be that Pew came along and drew an arbitrary blob on a map without consulting anyone locally whether that was an appropriate area for conservation or not. Further, the Pew proposed boundaries cover three islands belonging to the NMI but bills itself frequently as the "Marianas Trench Monument" yet the monument they envision only includes a tiny fraction of the Marianas Trench.

Maybe if Pew backed off its somewhat ham-handed initial approach and asked for local cooperation in redrawing the boundaries of a proposed monument, all parties could be assuaged and an agreement could be reached.

Here is my idea for a possible alternative to discuss with NMI stakeholders when redrawing the boundaries. If we redraw the borders of the proposed park to include a swath of ocean that narrowly bounds the actual Marianas Trench much like the boundaries of the oft-compared Grand Canyon Park do, it would not involve taking any land from the CNMI.

The deep parts of the trench (The Challenger Deep) are not near the NMI's northern islands anyway but lie well south of Guam. A park might start at the extreme northern limit of US/CNMI controlled waters directly above the Trench. The park could be a narrow10 or 20 mile wide J shaped strip that runs north and south out in the ocean on the east side of the CNMI well offshore, that then curves back west below Guam and extends to the end of the U.S. jurisdiction. There is not likely to be interference with fishing in that deep water and there is not likely to be any mineral extraction even possible in those ultra deep waters so potential conflict with commercial uses is avoided.

There is no need whatsoever for the park to encompass any of the CNMI islands if it is to be a "Marianas Trench Monument." Stick it out in the ocean where the Marianas Trench actually is. Sounds like a great idea but notice that I too did not consult the real stakeholders, I just made up something that sounded reasonable. The above is just one possibility.

Don't like that one? Here is another possibility. Make that monument a no-take zone within 50 feet of that big red Hawaiian mango tree in my backyard. Only three mango jam specialists and myself are to be allowed in there to munch those juicy mangos. Dammit, we owe it to our posterity to ensure those mangos will be there in a thousand years. See, that sounds reasonable. What would not sound reasonable is if I designated the mango tree in my neighbors yard then told him he couldn't get those mangos anymore, only I and a few select mango specialists could access the now "saved" mango tree area in his backyard. I might be happy, but the neighbor prob-

See PLANETARY on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Leading on climate change

By TONY BLAIR
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The climate change bill that senators are to begin debating next week is a hugely important signal of intent on behalf of U.S. legislators. Yes, negotiations could still alter the legislation. But the bill's core proposition is correct: Unless the United States radically reduces its greenhouse gas emissions, along with other major emitters, the damage to the climate will be irreversible.

Radical reduction is unlikely to happen through voluntary action alone. Measures in the bill, through a mandatory cap-and-trade scheme, would reduce emissions 70 percent from 2005 levels by 2050. These cuts would be based on a carbon market incentive system that moves with the grain of action around the globe.

Over the past few years, the debate on climate change has shifted profoundly. The scientific consensus that human activity is causing global warming has become overwhelming. The effect of unabated climate change is shocking and, as was shown by the report of Sir Nicholas Stern — the first authoritative study of the economics of climate change, commissioned by the British government in 2006 — it is far riskier economically to ignore climate change than to act to abate it.

New environmental technologies, in fact, already drive a multibillion-dollar industry. Last year, an estimated $148 billion was invested in clean-energy technologies, companies and projects, a 60 percent increase from 2006.

Round the planet, people are developing exciting technologies, changing their behavior and agitating for action so that responsibility on the environment will come in a way that is consistent with necessary economic growth.

Meanwhile, fears over energy security create a synergy with the climate debate. With oil above $130 a barrel, there are reasons to act irrespective of concern for the atmosphere. Reducing carbon dependency also goes to the heart of our basic security needs for the future. I have long thought that energy policy is only a small way behind defense in terms of strategic importance to our way of life.

Much is happening abroad. Europe has introduced the Emissions Trading System, with over half of emissions now tradable; despite the early teething troubles to be expected from any new policy framework, the system is delivering emissions reductions and sending a clear, market-based signal to companies across the continent. Japan has indicated that it is open to a binding national target. China has already set new energy intensity targets. India is to unveil its first national climate action plan in the next few weeks.

Israel recently announced support for a project that aims to add 100,000 electric cars to its roads by the end of 2010, providing tax incentives that will make those cars cheaper than gas-powered cars as a first step toward moving completely to electric.

> There will be no consequential action on climate change unless there is a global deal. For that to happen, the United States has to lead to ensure that we have an effective agreement in which China and India take part. Science shows that the world must move to a low-carbon economy.

The Group of Eight major industrialized nations will have climate change high on their agenda at their July meeting. At the same time, President Bush will hold the Major Economies Meeting.

The Clean Development Mechanism, while also by no means perfect, has established a basis for channeling resources efficiently to finance emissions reduction across the developing world.

Clearly, many countries and companies are realizing that, far from being a detriment to their economies, acting early to cut emissions can increase productivity and give them a competitive edge. And it's not just outside the United States: A majority of U.S. states have climate action plans, and many American cities are already working toward emissions reductions.

Hanging over all of this progress, however, is a political reality: There will be no consequential action on climate change unless there is a global deal. For that to happen, the United States has to lead to ensure that we have an effective agreement in which China and India take part.

Science shows that the world must move to a low-carbon economy. America could use its technology and entrepreneurial spirit to drive this revolution.

That's why the legislation sponsored by Sens. Barbara Boxer, Joe Lieberman and John Warner matters. It says — and shows — that America will act. It will allow the United States to say to others: You must act, too.

The U.N. process has produced the formula: There should be common but differentiated obligations for developing and developed nations. A great ambition, but what does it mean? That is the subject of the project I am leading that will produce its first report at the end of June.

Without an American commitment, a global deal is impossible. This is an important moment where the United States can show strong leadership. If the United States commits to the 50 percent global target for a reduction in emissions by mid-century and to legislation that mandates action, it will transform the prospects for effective change. It would allow this country to shape the debate and, most important, the solution. I hope it happens.

The writer was British prime minister from 1997 to 2007. He recently launched the Breaking the Climate Deadlock initiative to promote a new global agreement on climate change.

Letters to the Editor

An AG's Cup lesson

Students from 9 schools squared off in the Attorney General's Cup to determine if the CNMI and Guam should unite. Their arguments were strong and direct to the point and they never mentioned a person's name in a bad way. Their arguments were convincing and their arguments were well thought out. It was very obvious our children know how to debate issues in public without calling people names.

I wish more members of the public, especially some of the letter writers to the newspaper, witnessed the intellectual exchange of our students. Too often we see letters to the editor with a person's name for the title and a negative message about the person and very little about the facts surrounding the issue. These unprofessional letter writers would have learned a valuable lesson had they heard our children exchange their views on an intellectual level. Maybe next year more people will attend because everyone that missed it really missed it!

When there is a challenge, it is always easier to say no than to meet the challenge. I say this because all of the students, except two, chose to say no to reunification with Guam. But it was one of the students that chose to say yes who won the competition. It was not only her stance on the issue that allowed her to win. She was dynamic, convincing and she was also the only one who didn't read their speech, setting herself apart from the rest of the field. Kudos to Ruby Ann Reyes Venus and to Mt. Carmel Coach Galvin Guerrero for a job well done. It should be noted that Mt. Carmel has the most AG Cup championships in the CNMI and I'm sure Mr. Guerrero is the main reason. I also want to say kudos to Mercilynn Kaneshi for representing Kagman "Ayuyu" High School and winning second place. The entire AYUYU family is very proud of her and it was an honor to have been her coach. She is truly a future "somebody." I also want to thank the Attorney General's Office for continuing with this great competition, which continues to breed quality, and to all the distinguished judges for contributing their valuable time to make the AG Cup one of the most prestigious educational competitions in the CNMI. Maybe one day we can compete with Guam for the Marianas title if the Guam Governor fulfills his promise to start the AG Cup on Guam.

But it was really the wisdom of Guam's Governor Felix P. Camacho that prevailed. He began by apologizing for the rejection by the people of Guam when the NMI asked to unite the first time, which is really the first step toward reunification. It was obvious he realizes the ultimate power of being "one people, one direction" even though he didn't use those exact words. It was so good to know I'm not alone. The Governor's plea to "open the doors, tear down the walls and to keep hope alive for reunification" have set the conditions for the seed of unity to finally be planted. The history of the CNMI and Guam, the demographics of the CNMI and Guam, the politics, the economics and social issues are all challenges to statehood that have created a high level of fear but he is urging us to overcome these fears. He is so right when he said that "fear is paralyzing" and Ruby was so right to challenge us to overcome our fears. Hopefully the CNMI will be able to overcome the fear and that the people of Guam will follow the lead of their Governor and reach out to their relatives in the CNMI to reunite one day. After all, the federal government is already viewing the Marianas as one, which is evident in the sharing of Compact funds and now the sharing of the Guam military buildup funds. Maybe it's time to apply the old Chamorro philosophy of "little by little" and start building bridges towards unification. Whatever the case, we must move beyond the fear as Ruby referred to in her winning speech—"We have nothing to fear but fear itself," quoting Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Look deeper into CUC rates

Please read the article from "Oil News" from Singapore dated June 2, 2008 (http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080602/ap_on_bi_ge/oil_prices_2) in regards to the oil price in the article about the CUC rate increase in Monday's Saipan papers.

The reference in the CUC article stated that the $158 price of oil was from Mid Oil Platts, Singapore. This was not verifiable by that company for prices in May nor any other month as oil reaching this price. (Except for futures projection)

On May 21, 2008 the price of oil spiked to $135 and then rapidly decreased. This was the high for one day for the month of May. This also included any other world price index for May. No area around the world had oil hit $158.

New York, North Sea Brent, and OPEC mirrored this $135 price spike, also within the date by a few cents difference.

As you can see by the news link above, oil has been hovering around $127.

Since the articles concerning CUC in both newspapers are almost the same as they were written, I am assuming that the article was based on a "News Handout" by CUC in regards to information supplied to CUC by Mobil.

I would urge you to do some investigative reporting and see if anybody can verify this $158 oil price for May. What day, how long did it stay there etc. and from what independent source.

Dubai crude is the basis for setting the price in Singapore, the Philippines and Asia. Mobil and Shell have said they receive their shipments from Singapore for Guam and CNMI.

It sure looks like something is going on with either the Governor, CUC, Mobil, or maybe all of them have climbed into bed together before the Governor loses control again of CUC and the ghosts of the PUC Commission may appear and start to do something.

Just my observations.

John Mixson
Tinian

PLANETARY

From Page 10

ably would not. If the neighbor and I both sat down and jointly decided which mango tree to save, if any, the controversy would probably end. Either way, I like my neighbor and I like those mangos too.

■ ■ ■

I will resign

Just in case you were wondering. Yep, I'm willing to resign from whatever it is I should resign from in order to run for the Non-Voting Delegate slot. It's a bit easier for me since I don't have a government job to begin with nor am I an elected official. But hey, I'll resign from something if necessary.

It seems that some potential candidates would rather not resign from their current government jobs as the Constitution dictates before declaring themselves a candidate for the NVD job. Others, with just as much to lose have already done the right thing and resigned their posts in order to run as the law stipulates. The saying goes: You can't have your cake and eat it too. (Although the author of that tidbit may not have been so well connected as some). Resign already if you want to run, it's the ethical thing to do. Besides, it's the law.

So here is my promise: I will resign, but I will not vote. You can pinch me or punch me, I still won't vote.

■ ■ ■

Quote of the week: An act has no ethical quality whatsoever unless it be chosen out of several, all equally possible.

—William James (1842 – 1910)

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲84° ▼76°

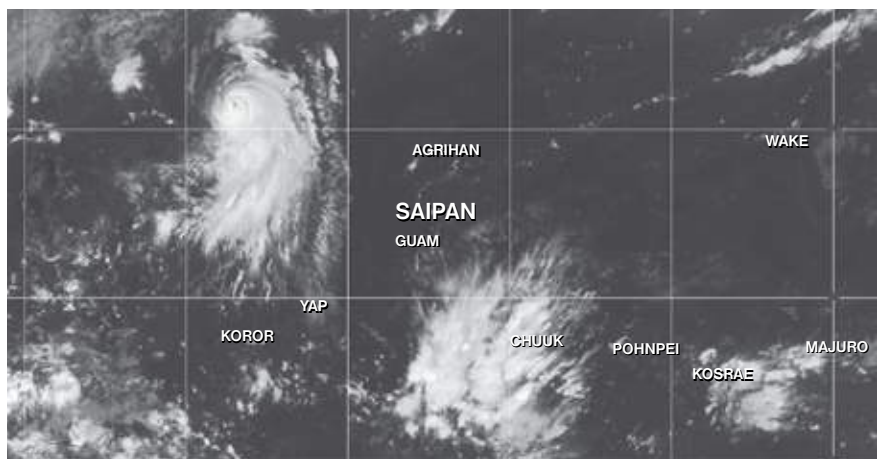
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼50
Beijing	Showers	▲64	▼48
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼75
London	Showers	▲73	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼59
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼53
Miami	Showers	▲89	▼78
New York	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼60
Osaka	Showers	▲76	▼62
Paris	Rain	▲65	▼55
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼59
Rome	Cloudy	▲77	▼56
Salem	Showers	▲60	▼49
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼53
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲75	▼54
Tokyo	Rain	▲67	▼58
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲79	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Nakri (06W) is centered near 25N134E or about 420 miles east-southeast of Okinawa. Nakri is moving north-northeast at 14 mph with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. Heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms are found within 90 miles of the center. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extend farther out to 120 miles from the center. For more information, refer to JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Converging west winds southwest of Nakri are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Minami Chigashi Island between 19N and 21N from 130E to 133E. Convergent west winds farther southwest of Nakri are generating scattered showers within 60 miles of a line from 15N130E to 19N134E. A low-level trough stretches northward from EQ142E to 11N144E. Convergent trades near the trough are combining with upper-level divergence to trigger showers and thunderstorms over a large area south of Guam and southeast of Yap. Specifically, numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between the equator and 10N from 138E to 146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are forming farther north or just south of Guam between 10N and 13N from 142E to 147E and also west of Chuuk between 2N and 10N from 146E to 150E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei and Kosrae within 125 miles of a line from 6N154E to 5N166E. An upper-level low is located southeast of Wake Island near 17N171E. Upper-level divergence near and south of the low is causing scattered showers south and southeast of Wake Island between 16N and 19N from 167E to 180 and also over Kwajalein and Majuro between 7N and 11N from 167E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:41AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:46AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
1:16PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:29PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:45PM
Wednesday	5:46AM	6:45PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:45PM
Friday	5:46AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46AM	6:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:40AM	6:13PM
Wednesday	5:43AM	7:22PM
Thursday	6:50AM	8:28PM
Friday	7:58AM	9:26PM
Saturday	9:03AM	10:18PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Island Snapshots

AG'S CUP

25th annual Attorney General's Cup speech competition winner Ruby Ann Reyes Venus, 17, a senior student of Mt. Carmel High School, is congratulated by coach and principal Galvin Deleon Guerrero while Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Presiding Judge Robert Naraja look on during the Attorney General's Cup at the Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort & Spa.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Academic Achievement Award recipient Hazel Sharon Bedia Handayan, summa cum laude with an associate degree in Nursing, pose with her proud parents Celia and Irvin Handayan, other relatives and friends shortly after the 28th Northern Marianas College Commencement Exercise at the Marianas High School gymnasium Saturday afternoon.

HONOR STUDENT

Honor student Cindy Deguzman Benavente receives her medal from Dandan Elementary School Principal Jonas Barcinas during the Dandan Elementary School Sixth Grade Farewell Ceremony.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

BEATING THE CUTOFF

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Customers fill up the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Susupe last Friday. The overcrowding prompted BMV to open the office last Saturday for people taking the written driving test and actual driving test.

NMC GRADUATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Miss Marianas Universe Shequita Lidear Bennett receives her associate degree in Criminal Justice diploma during the 28th Northern Marianas College Commencement Exercise at the Marianas High School gymnasium Saturday afternoon.

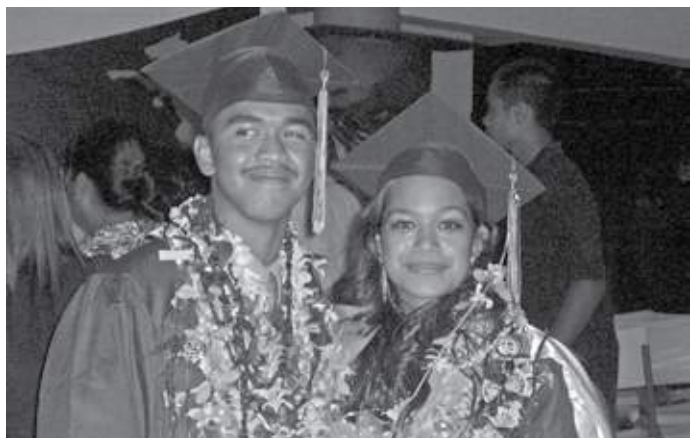
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Framingham State College master degree graduates stand during the 28th Northern Marianas College Commencement Exercise at the Marianas High School gymnasium Saturday afternoon.

EMS OPEN HOUSE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A child gets his face painted during the Emergency Medical Services' 2nd Annual Fire House Open House at the Koblerville Fire Station Saturday morning in observance of EMS Week, which is designated from May 18-24, 2008.



CONGRATULATIONS!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Mikaela Hofschneider Diaz, daughter of Frank and Frances Diaz, and her cousin Freddy U. Hofschneider III, son of Freddy and Rinenta Hofschneider. Mikaela is the valedictorian for Tinian High School. She will be heading off to Oregon State University in fall. Freddy has been accepted to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. "We are very happy and proud of your achievement! We love you, from your Mom and Dad, Grandpa Tico and Granda Bedu Diaz, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Maria Christina Espeleta-Ano, shown here with her two kids during the Northern Marianas College Commencement Exercises last May 24, 2008. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with magna cum laude honors. Greetings come from your proud Mom, Dad, and family.

ROUNDHOUSE MEETING

Chinese nonresident workers with unpaid administrative orders sign their names as they meet with CNMI Department of Labor officers and staff inside the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse Wednesday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

BEST FRIENDS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Grace Christian Academy graduates and best friends Romar Messiah B. Bulong and Genesis Michael H. Mamaril pose with their respective parents Robert and Maribel Bulong and Art and Angie Mamaril shortly after the GCA Junior High School Commencement Exercise Saturday.

Business

Fitial declares Small Business Development Month

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial joins Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez, NMC's Small Business Development director Eric Plinske, NMC Dean Debra Cabrera, NMC's Rik Villegas, Commonwealth Development Authority's Oscar Camacho, Tan Holdings Corp.'s Edward C. Arriola, Jr., small business owner Jack Manglona, and KIS Communication's Ken Shankweiler during the proclamation signing ceremony declaring the month of June 2008 as the 11th Annual CNMI Small Business Development month at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill Monday morning. Inset, Fitial signs the proclamation as Fernandez, Plinske and senior policy adviser Ray Mafnas look on.

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
BUSINESS EDITOR

Gov. Benigo Fitial declared June the Small Business Development Month for the 11th consecutive year in a proclamation signed on Capital Hill Monday, opening a series of management workshops for the local business community.

"I urge the people of the Commonwealth to participate in the small business workshop events and take advantage of the vital services and programs offered to our citizens" by the NMC Small Business Development Center and the Commonwealth Development Authority, Fitial said.

SBDC and CDA have partnered in presenting the four-part workshop series this month on Saipan, Tinian and Rota to business managers and supervisors. The workshops, held at Northern Marianas College locations on each island, include lessons in time management, developing a business plan, leadership skills and how to create financial projections using the computer program Excel. The workshops are free to the public.

"Even folks who are managers or supervisors, whether they are in the private sector or government, we feel they will benefit from having these workshops," said Eric Plinske, who is presenting the workshop on business planning.

The workshops are important to the CNMI's business community as a way of spurring new growth in light of its recent economic slump, noted NMC president Carmen Fernandez. In previous years, the workshops have proven effective in helping small business owners promote and manage their work, she said.

"This is really a very crucial time for this kind of assistance," Fernandez said. "Given our economy's downturn, this is certainly the most opportune time to able to provide more services to people, especially those that are interested in entrepreneurship."

Yet despite the CNMI's economic troubles, Fitial noted during the presentation that the pending military build up on Guam could provide an economic boon for the region's small businesses, in particular Saipan's tourism sector.

Saipan should "start gearing up" in anticipation of an increased demand for entertainment and "R&R," Fitial said, noting the recent advice of a military official on the issue. The CNMI's tourism sector could have a new "market of 8,000 people" due to the increased Marine Corps presence in the region, the governor added.

For more information on the workshops, contact Loly Kingzio at 234-5498 ext 1210 or e-mail Plinske at ericp@nmcnet.edu.

FREE WORKSHOPS

TINIAN WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, June 4
"Essential Skills of Leadership" presented by Dr. Kenneth Shankweiler
8am – 12pm at NMC Tinian
"Time Management" presented by Rik Villegas
1pm – 5pm at NMC Tinian

Wednesday, June 11
"How to Develop a Business Plan" presented by Eric Plinske
8am – 12pm at NMC Tinian
"How to Develop Financial Projections Using MS Excel" presented by Wilhelm Maui
1pm – 5pm at NMC Tinian

ROTA WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, June 17
"Essential Skills of Leadership" presented by Dr. Kenneth Shankweiler
8am – 12pm at NMC Rota
"Time Management" presented by Rik Villegas
1pm – 5pm at NMC Rota

Wednesday, June 25
"How to Develop a Business Plan" presented by Eric Plinske
8am – 12pm at NMC Rota
"How to Develop Financial Projections Using MS Excel" presented by Wilhelm Maui
1pm – 5pm at NMC Rota

SAIPAN WORKSHOPS

Thursday, June 5
"Essential Skills of Leadership" presented by Dr. Kenneth Shankweiler
8am – 12pm at NMC Saipan, Building V, Room 215

Thursday, June 12
"Time Management" presented by Rik Villegas
8am – 12pm at NMC Saipan, Building V, Room 215

Thursday, June 19
"How to Develop a Business Plan" presented by Eric Plinske
8am – 12pm at NMC Saipan, Building V, Room 215

Thursday, June 26
"How to Develop Financial Projections Using MS Excel" presented by Wilhelm Maui
8am – 12pm at NMC Saipan, Building W

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Britain may tighten cigarette rules, ban branding

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Department of Health has proposed banning tobacco companies from putting any logos or branding on cigarette packs. One proposal for preventing young people from smoking is to sell cigarettes in plain black-and-white boxes with nothing on them but health warnings. The British government is also considering banning cigarette vending machines. Another idea is to outlaw the sale of smaller, cheaper packs of 10 cigarettes available in Britain. Public Health Minister Dawn Primarolo said Saturday that the government's priority is to protect children from smoking by taking away the temptation.

Cost drives Senate climate debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—From higher electric bills to more expensive gasoline, the possible economic cost of tackling global warming is driving the debate as climate change takes center stage in Congress. Legislation set for Senate debate Monday would require a reduction in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from power plants, refineries, factories and transportation. The goal is to cut heat-trapping pollution by two-thirds by midcentury. With gasoline at $4 per gallon and home heating and cooling costs soaring, it is getting harder to sell a bill that would transform the country's energy industries and—as critics will argue—cause energy prices to rise even more.

Germany to push G-8 on food price plans

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel says she will push G-8 leaders at this year's summit in Japan to come up with a common approach for combating the rise in global food prices. Merkel says action needs to be taken to ensure that agricultural areas are not converted to produce biofuels. Merkel was speaking after meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda in Berlin on Sunday. Germany handed over the G-8 presidency to Japan at the start of the year. Fukuda says he agrees that we "need biofuels that do not threaten the production of food." Fukuda says Japan will follow Germany in making climate protection a central theme for the G-8 during Japan's term leading the group of industrialized nations.

Inflation watch continues on Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors examine the same key economic reports at the start of every month—on manufacturing, the service sector and employment. This week, they'll be looking at these indicators for inflation clues as much as they will for insight into economic growth.

Inflationary pressures have overtaken recession as Wall Street's primary concern. At least for now. The market has been mercurial lately, confident that it has a lot to worry about but not completely sure what to worry about most. There are so many choices: the ever-sinking housing market, the still-strained debt markets, and ongoing deterioration in consumer credit.

Paulson: No 'quick fix' on oil

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Sunday that there was no quick fix to high oil prices, which he called an issue of supply and demand.

Paulson said inflation in the Gulf is "significant" but suggested that Gulf countries pegging their currencies to the weak dollar was not the only reason for it. He said it was a "sovereign decision" by each country whether it wants to de-peg its currency from the dollar.

Speaking to reporters in the tiny Gulf nation of Qatar, Paulson also acknowledged the U.S. economy was experiencing a "downturn" and reiterated that a strong dollar was in the U.S. interest.

The Treasury chief was in the Mideast to deliver a message to officials of Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing nations that soaring oil prices are putting a burden on the global economy. He is urging the countries to open up their oil markets to investment that can boost yields, exploration and production.

With oil at record-high prices, Paulson said there is "no quick fix" because it is an issue of supply and demand. Global demand remains strong while "production capacity has not seen new development," Paulson said.

"I don't see a lot of short-term answers," he added.

He said he would like to see "increased investment throughout the world in oil and gas and alternative sources of energy."

On Wednesday, David McCormick, Treasury's undersecretary for international affairs, said that Paulson will not make any specific request for nations to boost their production.

On a trip to the Middle East earlier this month, U.S. President George W. Bush failed to win the help he sought from Saudi Arabia to relieve skyrocketing gas prices. Saudi officials said they already were meeting the needs of their customers worldwide and there was no need to pump more.

Paulson met with the top political and finance officials in Qatar, a day after he visited Saudi Arabia.

He said the weak dollar is not the only reason for high inflation in Gulf countries. "The peg serves this country and the region well," Paulson said, referring to Qatar.

He cited the example of Kuwait, which de-pegged from the dollar a year ago and is still combatting inflation.

Nation

Clinton wins Puerto Rico primary

AMERICA VOTES

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton won a lopsided, but largely symbolic victory Sunday in Puerto Rico's presidential primary, the final act in a weekend of tumult that pushed Barack Obama tantalizingly close to the Democratic presidential nomination.

The former first lady was winning roughly two-thirds of the votes as she continued a strong run through the late primaries.

Before cheering supporters, she predicted she would have more combined votes than her rival when the primaries end Tuesday night, claimed victories in key swing states and said that no contender will command enough delegates to claim the nomination.

"In the final assessment I ask you to consider these questions. Which candidate best represents the will of the people who voted in this historic election?" she said in an appeal to some 200 uncommitted superdelegates who hold the balance of power in the fight for the nomination.

Clinton

"Whichcandidate is best able to lead us to victory in November and which candidate is best able to lead our nation as our president in the face of unprecedented challenges at home and abroad?"

Obama and his aides projected confidence, and even in defeat, he gained 17 delegates in Puerto Rico, leaving him 47 short of the 2,118 needed to clinch the nomination.

Contrary to Clinton, they predicted he was on track to gain a delegate majority shortly after the primaries in South Dakota and Montana, and questioned her popular vote claim. Her assertion includes estimates for caucuses in Iowa, Nevada, Maine and Washington state, where no official candidate popular vote is available. It also includes the results from Florida, where no campaigning occurred, as well as Michigan, where Obama did not receive any votes because his name was not on the ballot.

Obama

Campaigning in Mitchell, S.D., the Illinois senator praised the former first lady in terms usually reserved for a vanquished rival.

"First of all, Senator Clinton is an outstanding public servant, she has worked tirelessly during this campaign ... and she is going to be a great asset when we go into November," he told his audience. "Whatever differences Senator Clinton and I may have, those differences pale in comparison to the other side."

Obama's confidence in the outcome of the historic battle between a woman and a black for the nomination reflected the results of Saturday's meeting of the Democratic Party's rules and bylaws committee. Before an audience that jeered and cheered by turns, the panel voted to seat disputed delegations from Michigan and Florida, but give each delegate only one-half vote rather than the full vote sought by the Clinton campaign.

Universal Studios fire destroys sets, videos

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)—One of Hollywood's largest movie studios starred in a disastrous sequel Sunday as a fire ripped through a lot at Universal Studios, destroying a set from "Back to the Future," a King Kong exhibit and a streetscape seen frequently in movies and TV shows.

It was the second fire at the historic site in nearly two decades, leveling facades, hollowing out buildings and creating the kind of catastrophe filmmakers relish re-creating. This time around, thousands of videos chronicling Universal's movie and TV shows were destroyed in the blaze.

But Universal officials said that they were thankful no visitors were seriously injured - though several firefighters suffered minor injuries - and that the damaged footage can be replaced.

"We have duplicates of everything," said Ron Meyer, NBC Universal president and chief operating officer. "Nothing is lost forever."

The blaze broke out on a sound stage featuring New York brownstone facades around 4:30 a.m. at the 400-acre property, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Michael Freeman said. The fire was contained to the lot but burned for more than 12 hours before the final flames were extinguished.

AP
Firefighters help remove film canisters from a burning video vault at Universal Studios in Universal City, Calif. on Sunday, June 1, 2008.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. Damage was expected to be in the millions of dollars.

The iconic courthouse square from "Back to the Future" was destroyed, and the famous clock tower that enabled Michael J. Fox's character to travel through time was damaged, fire officials said. Two mock New York and New England streets used both for movie-making and as tourist displays were a total loss, Los Angeles County Fire Inspector Darryl Jacobs said.

An exhibit housing a mechanically animated King Kong that bellows at visitors on a tram also was destroyed.

All three sites were either damaged or destroyed during another fire at Universal Studios in November 1990. That fire caused $25 million in damage and was started by a security guard who was sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to arson.

Concerns for air quality due to the acrid smoke prompted the South Coast Air Quality Management District to send a chemist to take air samples at the scene, said spokesman Sam Atwood. Results were expected Monday morning.

On leave from Iraq, Marine fatally wounded

CLEVELAND (AP)—On leave from the violence he had survived in the war in Iraq, a young Marine was so wary of crime on the streets of his own home town that he carried only $8 to avoid becoming a robbery target.

Despite his caution, Lance Cpl. Robert Crutchfield, 21, was shot point-blank in the neck during a robbery at a bus stop. Feeding and breathing tubes kept him alive 4 1/2 months, until he died of an infection on May 18.

Two men have been charged in the attack, and Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Bill Mason said Friday the case was under review to decide whether to seek the death penalty.

"It is an awful story," said Alberta Holt, the young Marine's aunt and his legal guardian when he was a teenager determined to flee a troubled Cleveland school for safer surroundings in the suburbs.

Crutchfield was attacked on Jan. 5 while he and his girlfriend were waiting for a bus. He had heeded the warnings of commanders that a Marine on leave might be seen as a prime robbery target with a pocketful of money, so he only carried $8, his military ID card and a bank card.

"They took it, turned his pockets inside out, took what he had and told him since he was a Marine and didn't have any money he didn't deserve to live. They put the gun to his neck and shot him," Holt told The Associated Press.

AP
The casket of Marine Lance Cpl. Robert Crutchfield is carried out of Sacrificial Missionary Baptist Church after his funeral service, in Cleveland, Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

The two men charged in the attack were identified as Ean Farrow, 19, and Thomas Ray III, 20, both of Cleveland. Their attorneys did not respond to The Associated Press' requests for comment.

ACROSS THE NATION

Robotic arm of Mars spacecraft leaves 'footprint'

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—NASA's new robot on Mars has reached out and touched the soil for the first time, leaving behind a striking footprint-like impression, scientists said Sunday. The Phoenix Mars Lander's robotic arm was making a test run, just one week after its landing. The spacecraft, which is also its own laboratory, will soon start scooping up soil and ice and running tests on it. "This first touch allows us to utilize the robotic arm accurately," said David Spencer, Phoenix's surface mission manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "We are in a good situation" for the future testing, he said. NASA on Saturday showed sharp images of what appeared to be ice exposed under the lander. The mission's main goal is to test ice for evidence of organic compounds that are the chemical building blocks of life.

Shuttle astronauts perform cursory wing inspection

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Lacking the proper laser tools, shuttle Discovery's astronauts performed a cursory wing inspection Sunday as they zoomed ever closer to the international space station. The astronauts used their ship's 50-foot robot arm to beam down camera images of the upper edges of the wings so engineers back on Earth could check for any evidence of launch damage. Left unexamined were the lower edges of the wings and the nose cap, also particularly vulnerable hot spots during re-entry. Astronaut Karen Nyberg, who helped operate the robot arm, said it was "just a quick inspection, as much as we could with what we have."

British rowers try to cross the Atlantic Ocean

NEW YORK (AP)—Four men, one 29-foot rowboat - and about 3,200 miles to go. A team of rowers from the United Kingdom set out from the Hudson River on Sunday to try to cross the Atlantic Ocean. They hope to end at the Isles of Scilly, a group of small islands off England's southwestern tip. The boat has an electronic tracking system, and a Web site dedicated to the effort says the rowers had gone 37 miles as of Sunday night. They hope to break a record of 55 days and 13 hours, set by two Norwegian-Americans in 1896. The rowers are expected to take turns, with two people rowing in two-hour shifts and then switching off. They range in age from 19 to 43 and have been training for more than a year. They are carrying about 1,500 freeze-dried meals and a device that can make saltwater safe to drink.

Man goes on trial in killings of wife, infant

WOBURN, Mass. (AP)—The young woman and her baby girl were snuggled together in bed, the infant nestled in her mother's arms, tucked under a thick comforter in the master bedroom of their home outside Boston. Both had been shot. The woman's husband and the baby's father, Neil Entwistle, a computer programmer from England, was gone. Authorities say he fired two .22-caliber bullets into his wife, Rachel, and 9-month-old daughter, Lillian Rose, then fled to his family's home in Worksop, England, because he was despondent over mounting debt and dissatisfied with his sex life. In the days before the killings, authorities say, he conducted online searches for information about murder and suicide.

Asia

Some linger despite China flood evacuation

QINGLIAN, China (AP)—As others rushed for higher ground, the Liu family sat at home sipping tea and watching TV reports of a possible massive flood.

Armed police came the night before to tell them to leave. A warning spray-painted outside their door marked a flood line the height of their floor.

"We're waiting until the last moment," said farmer Liu Zhenyang, 35. "Then we'll run to the hills."

Authorities were evacuating the last of some 200,000 people on Sunday from the path of waters threatening to spill from a lake formed when China's May 12 earthquake blocked the Tongkou River with a landslide. But after weeks of chaos and uncertainty, some were reluctant to be uprooted again.

Men in camouflage uniforms and bright orange life vests sealed off villages along the river, leaving them empty and silent. It was too soon to know if a newly completed channel to drain off the swelling river was working.

Liu's home in the village of Qinglian was fine. But his family, about 10 members in all, had no tent to live in if they moved away from the flood zone.

"That's the main problem, the lack of tents," Liu Zhenyang said. "The government said there were no more. But we understand."

With no assurance of when - or even if - the flood might come, some said they were ready to outrun, outbike or outdrive any water. Xia Chengyi bicycled by, saying he got an hour's permission to come back and feed the pigs of 13 families.

"We have a car. If the water comes, we'll run for it," said 59-year-old Yang Xiufu, his grandson on his lap. "Such trouble! We don't know when the water is coming."

Two police officers took turns posing for photos in front of an empty plaza dedicated to the long-ago famous poet Li Bai, who legend says drowned when he leaped drunk into a lake to embrace the reflection of the moon.

Residents rolled up their tents in the badly damaged village of Jiuling and began headed towards the hills, most on foot and one driving a tractor of green beans.

"The army came this morning. They told us to leave immediately," Yue Chengdi, a 58-year-old farmer, said. But he'd wanted to check his crops first.

Soldiers patrolled the empty, shattered lanes in groups of four. A tent had collapsed in the rush to leave. Playing cards were left scattered in the dust.

On top of nearby Taohuashan, or Peach Blossom Mountain, hundreds of families were waiting to see if their homes below would be swept away. People said the government would warn everyone with sirens and firecrackers if the lake burst.

AP

Flood-evacuees live at a tent at a refugee camp in Taohuashan, Sichuan province Sunday June 1, 2008.

Strong quake in RP damages homes

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck at sea off the northern Philippines on Sunday, causing cracks in dozens of old stone houses, setting off rock slides and knocking out power in one town but causing no injuries, an official said.

No tsunami warning was issued, he said.

The magnitude 6.3 quake occurred at around 9:57 a.m. (0157 GMT) and its epicenter was at sea about 85 kilometers (53 miles) southwest of Basco township in Batanes province, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The quake was felt faintly in southeastern Taiwan, but no damage or injuries were reported.

Renato Solidum Jr., director of the Philippine volcanology institute, initially reported the epicenter at a depth of 29 miles (46 kilometers). He later said his agency recalculated it to be at 20 miles (33 kilometers) beneath the seabed.

A quake at that depth might be felt strongly in some areas but would not be considered likely cause any major damage. No tsunami warning was issued, Solidum said.

The quake was felt in the Philippines' northernmost province of Batanes, and in nearby Cagayan Valley and Ilocos provinces.

Batanes Governor Telesforo Castillejos said the earthquake caused cracks in dozens of old stone houses—a tourism attraction in his remote province—and toppled at least 15 water tanks off roofs but caused no injuries.

It briefly knocked out power in one Batanes town and caused rock slides that blocked a highway, Castillejos said.

Myanmar: Cyclone response was prompt

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's ruling junta, faced with global outrage about its low-key response to last month's deadly cyclone, said Sunday that recovery from the catastrophe will be speedy and extolled the country's top leaders for their actions in the crisis.

But criticism of the military junta's response to the storm continued, with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates saying the government had acted with "criminal neglect" in responding to the crisis.

The regime has limited foreign relief workers' numbers and added conditions to their movement despite agreeing more than a week ago to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's request that they be allowed into worst affected areas in the Irrawaddy delta.

The junta has also refused to allow military ships off Myanmar's coast to bring in aid.

AP

SUICIDE ATTACK

Afghan police and local men are seen around a vehicle destroyed by the U.S. forces in Jalalabad city, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday, June 1, 2008, a day after a suicide attacker targeted a U.S. convoy on Saturday. A suicide car bomb attack against a NATO convoy Saturday killed two soldiers and wounded four others, while fighting in the south killed 16 Taliban militants, officials said.

6 die after receiving human antibody injections in China

BEIJING (AP)—Six people have died after being injected with a human antibody in eastern China, a hospital spokeswoman said Monday, the latest case of deaths caused by suspect medicine.

The six died after being injected with immune globulin, and the company that sold the drugs was ordered to stop selling them, said a spokeswoman at the No. 2 Hospital at Nanchang University in Jiangxi province.

The spokeswoman, who would give only her last name Yu, did not provide any other details.

Immune globulin is an antibody extracted from blood plasma that is commonly injected into muscles to treat infections such as hepatitis A and rabies.

Huang Fu, a spokesman with the news office of the Jiangxi Food and Drug Administration, confirmed the six had died, but said the deaths were still being investigated and drug samples had been sent for examination.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai anti-government protesters vow to go on

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A leader of anti-government protesters in Thailand says they will keep up their demonstrations until Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej steps down. Chamlong Srimuang, a former Bangkok governor who helped lead similar protests 2006, says that the law is on their side and that the estimated 500 protesters will continue their protest against Samak, who they say is a puppet for former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Thaksin was ousted in a 2006 coup. "We will stay on the site until Samak is out of office," Chamlong said. "We have right by law to stage a rally and protest against the government here."

Military: 13 killed in Sri Lanka clashes

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Nine Tamil Tiger rebels and four soldiers were killed in new clashes in Sri Lanka's restive north, the military said Sunday. Fighting broke out Saturday in Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya and Welioya regions, a military official said on condition of anonymity citing government orders. Authorities have vowed to defeat the rebels and dismantle their de facto state in the north by the end of this year. Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan could not be reached for comment. It was not possible to independently verify the military's claim because reporters are not allowed in the war zone.

Envoy: North Korea nuclear declaration nearly done

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's chief nuclear negotiator says North Korea is nearly ready to submit a declaration of its nuclear programs. South Korea's Kim Sook told reporters on Sunday that North Korea is coordinating with the United States on when it will issue the long-awaited declaration. North Korea had promised to complete the declaration in return for economic aid and political concessions. Kim says he expects international talks to resume this month. The six-party talks were last held between late September and early October 2007.

Pakistan partner party gets reform draft

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The main party in Pakistan's shaky coalition government on Sunday gave its estranged key partner a draft of proposed constitutional reforms aimed in part at reducing President Pervez Musharraf's powers, officials said. The parties of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari both consider Musharraf an archrival with outsized powers. But the coalition partners have disputed whether restoring dozens of judges ousted by Musharraf should be linked to broader legal reforms. The president, a longtime U.S. ally who seized power in a 1999 coup, has faced stepped-up pressure to resign in recent days but has resisted the calls.

World

Australia ends Iraq combat operations

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Australia, a staunch U.S. ally and one of the first countries to commit troops to the war in Iraq five years ago, ended combat operations there Sunday.

Soldiers lowered the Australian flag that had flown over Camp Terendak in the southern Iraqi city of Talil. The combat troops were expected to return to Australia over the next few weeks, with the first of them arriving home Sunday.

The move fulfills a campaign promise by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who was swept into office in November largely on the promise that he would bring home the country's 550 combat troops by the middle of 2008. Rudd has said the Iraq deployment made Australia more of a target for terrorism.

Defense Minister Joel Fitzgibbon told a news conference that Australia's military was overstretched with commitments in East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"It's the right time to bring out troops home," he said. "Indeed, the time to bring them home has passed."

The head of Australia's defense force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, said Iraqis had taken over security where the Australians were based.

"I think the conditions are right for us to pull out. The operational overwatch mission is complete and the Iraqis are handling business in the province," Houston said.

But Rudd's predecessor, former Prime Minister John Howard, said he was "baffled" by the decision to withdraw the troops.

"If I had been returned at the last election we would not have been bringing (troops) home, we would have been looking at transitioning them from their soon-to-be terminated role to a training role," Howard told the Sydney Morning Herald in an interview published Monday.

Howard, who led the country for 11 years and celebrated his friendship with President Bush, told the newspaper that the decision to send Australian troops to Iraq in 2003 was "very, very, very hard." But he stood by his choice, which he said helped further deepen Australia's alliance with the United States.

Australian troops helped train 33,000 Iraqi army soldiers following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. They helped train the Iraqis in logistics management, combat service support and counterinsurgency operations.

About 300 troops will remain inside Iraq for logistical and air surveillance duties, as well as guarding Australian diplomats and others in Baghdad.

A further 500 soldiers will remain in the region, including 200 sailors aboard the frigate HMAS Stuart in the Persian Gulf. Australia also will leave behind two maritime surveillance aircraft.

Opposition leader Brendan Nelson, of the Liberal party, backed the withdrawal of troops but said he would prefer that some trainers stay behind, to continuing helping "the Iraqis to look after their own security."

But another Liberal party politician said the job is not yet done in Iraq.

8 suffocate during soccer match in Liberia

By JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)—At least eight people suffocated at an overcrowded stadium during a soccer match between Liberia and Gambia on Sunday, a doctor and an aid worker said.

The 33,000-seat Samuel K. Doe stadium in Monrovia was packed beyond capacity for the World Cup qualifying match.

The rowdy crowd pushed up against a metal bar, causing the bar to snap and sending dozens of people careening onto the floor below. They fell onto others at the game, crushing them.

"Spectators tried all sorts of means to save (them), but could not help," said Liberian Red Cross rescue worker Emmanuel Johnson.

Hours before the start of the match, United Nations peacekeepers had closed the gates of the stadium when it became clear that the stadium was already beyond capacity.

Thousands of people entered using fraudulent tickets, stranding real ticket holders outside. Stadium officials could not differentiate between the real and fake tickets and already had allowed too many people to enter before they realized their mistake.

The Liberian Football Association's chief doctor Sam Harris said the bodies of the eight dead were taken to the country's main hospital.

A year later, Hamas rule deepens in Gaza

By STEVEN GUTKIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—A year into Hamas' rule in the Gaza Strip, courts are meting out justice, police are arresting thieves, motorists are paying for licenses and authorities are blocking Internet porn sites.

At the same time, Gazans are stocking up on vegetable oil - not for cooking, but to run their cars during a severe fuel shortage. A punishing Israeli-led blockade has forced 80 percent of the people to rely on United Nations food handouts. With sanitation services collapsing, millions of gallons of raw sewage are flowing into the sea. Enemies of the regime have been silenced.

A year after Hamas militants seized power in five days of bloody fighting that included tossing rivals off high-rise rooftops, it's become clear that Israel's boycott of Gaza has not significantly weakened Hamas and its control is deepening.

"We've only become stronger. We will not stand down. We will not go back," said Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri.

Hamas' rule in Gaza—along with a corruption scandal in Israel that threatens to bring down Prime Minister Ehud Olmert—is badly damaging prospects for a U.S.-backed Mideast peace initiative that seeks to forge an agreement by year's end between Israel and the moderate Palestinian leadership in the West Bank.

Gaza—a tiny fenced-in territory whose 1.4 million inhabitants are not free to come and go—has become a morass of contradictions.

Internal fighting has stopped and crime is down under Hamas rule, but the calm was partly

COLOMBIA LANDSLIDE AP

A machine removes debris from a home affected by a landslide after heavy rains in Medellin, Sunday, June 1, 2008. The landslide killed at least 11 people and destroyed many homes on Saturday.

Legendary designer YSL dies at 71

By ELAINE GANLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PARIS (AP)—Legendary designer Yves Saint Laurent, who reworked the rules of fashion by putting women into elegant pantsuits that came to define how modern women dressed, died Sunday evening, a longtime friend and associate said. He was 71.

Pierre Berge, Saint Laurent's business partner for four decades, said he had died at his Paris home following a long illness.

A towering figure of 20th century fashion, Saint Laurent was widely considered the last of a generation that included Christian Dior and Coco Chanel and made Paris the fashion capital of the world, with the Rive Gauche, or Left Bank, as its elegant headquarters.

In the fast-changing world of haute couture, Saint Laurent was hailed as the most influential and enduring designer of his time. From the first YSL tuxedo and his trim pantsuits to see-through blouses, safari jackets and glamorous gowns, Saint Laurent created instant classics that remain stylish decades later.

"I am saddened by the loss of such a legendary talent," designer Tommy Hilfiger said in an e-mailed statement to The Associated Press. "He was a creative genius who changed the world of fashion forever."

"Chanel gave women freedom" and Saint Laurent "gave them power," Berge said on France-Info radio. Saint Laurent was a "true creator," going beyond the aesthetic to make a social statement, Berge said.

In this Sept. 10, 1969 file photo, French fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent, center, poses with Betty Catroux, left, and Loulou de la Falaise outside his Rive Gauche boutique in London. Saint Laurent and his two friends are wearing his new safari style designs made of khaki cotton. AP

Israel frees Hezbollah spy, gets soldiers' remains

By ARON HELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel handed over a convicted Hezbollah spy to Lebanon on Sunday and in a surprise move the Islamic guerrilla group turned over what it said were the body parts of Israeli soldiers killed in a 2006 war.

The Hezbollah gesture, along with recent comments by its leader, signaled that a larger prisoner exchange could be in the works between the two bitter enemies.

Israel said publicly that Sunday's exchanges were unrelated to a deal that would include Israel releasing the longest-serving Lebanese prisoner and Hezbollah setting free two soldiers captured in a 2006 cross-border raid that sparked a monthlong war.

But a senior Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said a deal was in the making, even though there was no timetable for completing it.

Israeli authorities released Nasim Nisr, an Israeli of Lebanese descent after he completed a six-year sentence for espionage and drove him from a prison in central Israel to the northern Rosh Hanikra crossing.

Hezbollah official Wafik Safa told the group's al-Manar TV station that it handed over a brown box containing what it said were the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in the war.

Nasrallah has boasted in the past that he holds the arms and legs of Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli army said the remains would undergo forensic examination.

Helge Kvam, a Red Cross spokesman in Jerusalem, called Hezbollah's move a "complete surprise," and the Israeli military said the move was not coordinated.

Overdrive

A rare breed of sport bike

This 2008 MV Agusta F4CC is one of only 100 in the world, and each is 90 percent hand-assembled. LOS ANGELES TIMES

By SUSAN CARPENTER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

When I first heard about the MV Agusta F4CC, I thought: Yeah, right. What thrill could I get for $120,000 that I couldn't for one-tenth the price? Then MV gave me the bike. Even better, they provided the key.

In my job, it's easy to be a power junkie. I get to sample all kinds of yummy fun sport bikes that tempt me to get into all kinds of trouble with a simple flick of the wrist. Usually, I'm able to get my ya-yas out without going completely overboard, which explains why I'm still standing after two years of riding more than 100 bikes.

But the F4CC broke my will. Riding the world's most expensive (limited) production sport bike, I felt like Zeus.

I was fast. I felt rich. I felt sexy. Though, riding a bike that costs more than my annual salary, I didn't exactly feel carefree.

It's difficult to ride a 200-horsepower, $120,000 sport bike to its full potential. First, my name's not Valentino or Dani or that of any other top racer. Second, it's easy to be psyched out by the price.

Confident as I am in my riding ability, I was plagued by the fear that I'd drop it, cause thousands of dollars of damage, draw all kinds of attention to my newspaper for the wrong reasons, lose my job, lose my house, lose my kid and end up on the street eating Snausages. It's enough pressure as it is to be a female motorcycle critic for the mainstream press in a male-dominant enthusiast-driven sport, and the F4CC didn't help.

I'm the sort of person who flubs when I'm trying to show off anyway. Dress me up in heels and they'll walk their way onto the nearest banana peel, which was pretty much what happened in my first day with MV's most exclusive bike, though it started well enough. The first stares I got atop the F4CC happened before I'd even left the Los Angeles Times parking garage. The first roll-down-the-window compliment: within two blocks. When you pay so much money for such a high-class bike, that's exactly what should be happening.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: $120,000
Powertrain: Liquid-cooled (with water-oil heat exchanger), fuel-injected, DOHC, four-stroke, inline four-cylinder, four valves per cylinder, six-speed
Displacement: 1,078 cc
Maximum torque: 92 pound-feet at 9,000 rpm
Maximum horsepower: 200 at 12,200 rpm
Seat height: 31.87 inches
Dry weight: 412 pounds
Road test MPG: 27

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

But riding a bike that draws so much attention made it all the more mortifying when I was stuck at the front of a line for a left-turn arrow at an exceedingly long red light because of a train. I glanced down at the dash and saw the engine temperature clicking up a couple degrees every few seconds. That isn't unusual for a high-performance machine, but it kept going up.

When it got to 234 degrees, the number started blinking. I started panicking. And in an effort to avoid an impending meltdown, I turned off the ignition. Then the arrow went green, the engine hadn't cooled enough to want to turn back on, and I was stuck. By the time I got the bike to go, I was over-revving, running a red light and looking like I'd learned to ride yesterday.

I've never been so relieved to get on the freeway, whichthankfully was just around the corner. But just as I entered the freeway and was about to crack the throttle to leave that memory in the dust, I saw a black-and-white. So I stayed in first gear, which on the F4CC meant I wasn't even straining at 75 mph.

The F4CC uses a modified version of the 190-horsepower, 1,078 cc, inline-four motor used on MV's new F4 RR 312 1078 -- a $30,000-ish bike that looks like a spittoon next to the F4CC. The CC's additional 10 horses are derived, in part, from the lighter-weight titanium intake valves and oversize throttle bodies -- improvements that will trickle down to the production F4 in a year or so. It also features the F1-derived Torque Shift System that MV introduced on an earlier limited-production F4-1000, the Tamburini.

But that isn't the reason the F4CC costs twice as much per pound as a Ferrari. Only 100 F4CCs have been built, and 90 percent of each one of them was made by hand. The steering damper, hand levers, foot pegs and fork feet were all machined and hand-assembled by MV's top artisans rather than the Regular Joes on the assembly line.

The F4CC is the bike that MV Agusta President Claudio Castiglioni wanted for himself, which is why it was built and where it gets its name. The bike I was riding was No. 001 -- the first one built. Not only did it belong to Castiglioni personally, his signature was on the carbon-fiber body.

The F4CC is the sort of bike that needs its own bodyguard. It's the kind of bike that wants to be fed high-octane gas and bathed with Evian and buffed with a silk rag dipped in rare Camellia seed oil.

But it also wants to be ridden hard and fast. Despite my fears of dumping it, I was happy to oblige because the F4CC is about excess.

"When in Rome" was pretty much my justification for riding faster than I ever had previously. I'm sure some will say I was reckless, and maybe I was. While I never used more than four of the bike's six gears or came anywhere near its 17,000 rpm max, I wanted to feel the power and savor the grumble and growl of its pipe-organ titanium racing exhaust, which to me was catnip.

Riding the F4CC, I felt as if I'd been touched by the hand of God, and, in a way, I probably had been. I was pulled over on this bike, and I didn't get a ticket. I like to think it's because the authorities were as blown away by MV Agusta's premium product as I was.

CRUISIN'

Gas tank placement

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, do you remember when you could pull up to a gas station when your gas tank was located in the middle of your car under the license plate? It seems today that the gas station always has a line on my side, and I am wondering if they will ever put the gas tank in the middle again. -- "Tired of Waiting in Line" in Coal Township, Pa.

A: I sure do remember those days, and even more novel ways of incorporating the rear gas tank lines. Quickly coming to mind are the 1956 Chevy models that featured a left side taillight that came down in its entirety to expose the fuel inlet pipe. In 1957, Chevy utilized the top section of the left rear taillight that flipped to the side to open, and in 1958, Chevy had a placement above the bumper back panel that flipped forward to allow access. The 1958 Olds had a rear fin that lifted, so this was indeed a popular way to fill up your car in the good old days.

As for replacing the gas lines toward the rear of the vehicle, I'm guessing it is safer to have them located on left or right side due to rear-end collision situations (remember the Pinto?). With the gas door on the left or right side, the fuel line intake pipe now leads directly down to the gas tank, reducing the possibility of fire in a rear-end impact.

However, as many cars used fuel pipes behind license plates, one of my car expert friends feels it was styling cues more so than safety brainstorming that played the major role in the repositioning of the tanks and fuel lines.

Thanks for the letter, and I still pull into the "wrong side" regularly, or, like you, have to wait for a "right side" pump.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Remote helps a car keep its cool

By RALPH VARTABEDIAN
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Leave a car parked in the sun on a 90-degree day with the windows up and the doors safely locked and the interior temperature can shoot up to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

One fix to the heat problem is a remote start system, sold by aftermarket suppliers and, more recently, by vehicle manufacturers including General Motors. These products range in price from less than $100 to about $400, depending on the level of sophistication.

Among the most sophisticated of these is an after-market system produced by Directed Electronics, a San Diego-area car-alarm manufacturer.

The company's new Viper system is car security on steroids. It connects directly into a vehicle's so-called "controller area network," the data bus that forms the electronic architecture of most new cars. As a result, the Viper can give consumers remote control of almost every electronic system in a car.

For example, if you are at your desk and ready to leave work for the day, you can remotely start your car and begin to run the air conditioner up to 15 minutes before arriving at the vehicle. If you want to crack the windows a quarter of an inch, Viper can do that too. It can tell you the temperature inside the car.

It can unlock doors, sound the horn and start up music. I'm not sure why anybody would want to remotely turn on the windshield wipers or operate a winch, but theoretically you can do that with the Viper as well.

The Viper remote can unlock the doors of the vehicle with a remote control that sends an encrypted signal into the system. If a person attempts to intrude into the car without the proper signal, the Viper will sound an alarm. I'm not a big fan of car alarms, but at least the Viper, like many other new car alarm systems, will send a pager beep to the remote control that lets the owner know the alarm is sounding.

When a mere human engages the starter motor, he or she listens for the engine to fire up to disengage the starter motor.

The Viper system is more precise. It measures the voltage on the car's electrical system. A car battery provides just more than 12 volts to the car's electrical grid. When the engine starts and the alternator reaches operating speed, the voltage surges to 14.1 volts. The Viper measures the voltage many times each second and instructs the starter motor to disengage when it senses the engine has started.

To cool down the car, the owner has to leave the air conditioning and blower controls in the on position. Of course, in the winter, pre-starting the car can also warm it up.

Life & Style

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Raymond Tolentino of Pacific Islands Club (2002 champion 2nd Bartenders Cocktail Competition at Mochis Disco Bar).

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Bartender's competition's only female contestant, Rojinia Banacia of Hyatt Regency Saipan, shows off her talent during the event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Taste of the Marianas Bartenders Cocktail Competition participants, Marianas Bartenders Association president Lito Espino and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio gather for photo shortly after the successful event.

Torres, Usi rule bar wars at Taste

Jaymar Torres and Monico Usi ruled the bartending competition held during the final night of the Taste of the Marianas on Saturday night.

Torres was declared the Battle of the Champions winner, while Usi was named the Malibu Coconut Rum Challenge novice category champion.

The competition, hosted by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, drew bartenders from the island's bars and restaurants and a couple of guest performances by the champion bartenders of the Flair Bar in Garapan.

Here are pictures from the event:

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Battle of Champions winner Jaymar Torres with Marianas Bartenders Association president Lito Espino, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio and Aqua Resort Club management and staff.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

2008 Taste of the Marianas Bartenders Cocktail Competition novice category winner Monico Usi of the Hawaii Bar receives his award from Marianas Bartenders Association president Lito Espino and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

Champion Monico Usi of Hawaii bar.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

First runner-up Jaysan Gatdula of Marianas Resort and Spa show his flaring skills.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A competitor from the Flair Bar wows the crowd with his fire breathing technique.

Malibu Coconut Rum Challenge novice category champion Monico Usi and Battle of the Champions winner Jaymar Torres pose beside a trophy.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Flair's world-class bartender Wally juggles four bottles of Malibu.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Jaymar Torres of Aqua Resort Club (2007 champion Bar Wars Bartenders Cocktail competition at GIG Discotheque).

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lorenzo Divino of Palms Resort Hotel (2007 champion TOM Bacardi Light Challenge) competes in the Battle of the Champions.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ramil Eustaquio of the Wonderful Bar won the Best in Props award.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Martin and Jacqueline Lizama
P.O. Box 502046
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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of Adoption for Shirley Marie Villagomez Lizama Minor Child	FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0291
By Martin Jose Jr. Cabrera Lizama Jacqueline Villagomez Lizama Petitioners	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Adoption for the above-named minor child by Martin Jr. C. Lizama and Jacqueline V. Lizama Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Adoption will be held a the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, on the 12th day of June, 2008 at 1:30 P.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MTV Movie Awards have smoke, no fire

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)—The "Transformers" have another chunk of metal to add to their collection.

The blockbuster about robots in disguise took home the golden popcorn trophy for best film at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday night, and Johnny Depp won two buckets for best comedic performance and best villain.

Accepting the best film award with director Michael Bay, "Transformers" co-star Megan Fox trotted out some R-rated language to describe how good the film's sequel is going to be. Bay said the film would begin shooting the following day and take place two years after the first film.

And Rainn Wilson—who presented best kiss wearing nothing but a teddy bear—told The Associated Press on the gold carpet that he would play a college professor in "Transformers 2."

"I just love the idea of me being in giant Michael Bay movie," Wilson said.

A couple of hundred yards downhill, the final remnants of a disastrous fire that ripped through Universal Studios was extinguished as the ceremony got under way.

While there was no mention of the fire, there was definitely smoke during the over-the-top ceremony: Presenters Seth Rogen and James Franco, stars of the upcoming stoner comedy "Pineapple Express," pretended to smoke marijuana before handing out the popcorn trophy for new category of best summer movie so far.

"Kids, don't really smoke fake weed like this," Rogen sarcastically told the crowd at the Gibson Amphitheatre.

As they pulled out the "contraband," the cameras pulled away to a wide angle, staying that way until Rogen and Franco left the stage. The awkward moment made some in the audience laugh, but left Robert Downey Jr.—who accepted the award on behalf of "Iron Man"—with a puzzled look.

"Thanks fellas," he said, "for that intoxicating introduction."

Franco later told the AP backstage that MTV put them up to the joke, but that someone from the network decided at the last minute that they couldn't go through with it. By then, it was too late to pull back.

"MTV wrote it! ... Then backstage there was this big commotion: 'You guys can't say that,'" Franco said. "It says right in the script: 'Lights fake joint.'"The nearby studio fire broke out 4:30 a.m. on a soundstage featuring a New York brownstone facades at the 400-acre property. It was contained to the lot but burned for more than 12 hours before the final flames were extinguished.

"I actually came here early because I wanted to see it," Chris Brown said before the show. What did he see? "A whole lot of chaos."

Winners were threatened to keep their speeches short by a man resembling Javier Bardem's character from "No Country for Old Men" - complete with the bob hairdo and pneumatic cattle gun. Best female performance winner Ellen Page from "Juno" escaped unscathed, but best fight winners Sean Faris and Cam Gigandet were ushered off stage by the menacing lookalike.

Host Mike Myers and Dana Carvey resurrected their "Saturday Night Live" characters Wayne Campbell and Garth Algar, the cable access hosts of "Wayne's World." They acknowledged it's been awhile since they've been together ("1994. That's a while," said Wayne) and presented a risque top ten list of adult film titles (No. 8: "I Am Legend ... In Bed"; and No. 1 "Iron Man").

The mood backstage was calm as stars schmoozed during the show. Cruise posed for photos with his arm around Ben Stiller while wife Katie Holmes stood a few steps away. She wasn't by herself for long: Sarah Jessica Parker chatted Holmes up, and Sandler and Smith both had their children with them behind the scenes.

Depp showed up to accept his trophies for best comedic performance for "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" and best villain for "Sweeney Todd." While the crowd was visibly excited—including a nearly swooning Diablo Cody—"Superbad" actors Jonah Hill and Rogen shot shook their fists at Depp and give him the thumbs down.

Depp kept his first acceptance speech short.

"You can ask anybody," he said quietly. "I'm not a very funny person. I'm not even remotely funny."

Tom Cruise presented Adam Sandler with the Generation Award, the MTV Movie Awards' highest honor, for his various comedic and "stupid" performances over the years. Sandler sang a live version of "Nobody Does It Better" alongside a bevy of backup dancers clad in skin-tight gold outfits. Among them: Rob Schneider.

Sandler, who took a guitar solo on his gold Les Paul, changed the lyrics to "baby, I'm the best."

"That was probably the most arrogant thing I've ever done," Sandler said, moments after Cruise got on his knees to hand over the golden popcorn.

Coldplay performed "Viva la Vida" amid a flurry of confetti, which at one point found its way in lead singer Chris Martin's mouth. Later, the Pussycat Dolls danced in front of a giant lit-up sign broadcasting the group's name alongside "America's Best Dance Crew" winners JabbaWockeeZ to "When I Grow Up."

Other winners during the ceremony included Will Smith for best male performance for "I Am Legend"; Zac Efron for best breakthrough performance for "Hairspray"; and Briana Evigan and Robert Hoffman for best kiss in "Step Up 2: The Streets."

AP

Dwayne Johnson, left, Anne Hathaway, center, and Steve Carell present an award at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday June 1, 2008 in Los Angeles.

Franco: MTV gave us the bag of 'fake weed'

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)—Like the stoners they play in the upcoming "Pineapple Express," Seth Rogen and James Franco stumbled unkowingly into trouble Sunday at the MTV Movie Awards.

And of course, the weed was someone else's.

Early on in the show, Rogen and Franco took the podium to present the award for best summer movie so far, joking that MTV chose them because only "two potheads like us" would be willing to announce such a strange category. Then they pulled out a bag of "fake weed" and a "huge fatty joint" - and proceeded to light it.

"Kids, don't really smoke fake weed like this," Rogen told the crowd at the Gibson Amphitheatre, with a degree of sarcasm to suggest that the only fake thing was the idea that it was fake.

But before TV audiences could see the "contraband," the cameras pulled to an extremely wide angle, and stayed that way until Rogen and Franco left the stage. The awkward moment made some in the audience laugh, but left Robert Downey Jr. - who accepted the award on behalf of "Iron Man" alongside director John Favreau - with a puzzled look.

Backstage, Franco told The Associated Press that MTV put them up to the joke, even supplying the script, the fake marijuana and the fake joint—then had a last-second change of heart about the bit.

"MTV wrote it! ... Then backstage there was this big commotion: 'You guys can't say that,'" Franco said. "It says right in the script: 'Lights fake joint.'" He liked the bit, saying: "that was the joke, because the No. 1 question we get about 'Pineapple Express' is, 'What kind of research did you guys do?'"

Franco said he was disappointed that the cameras went wide.

"I think they killed the joke," he said.

So what was really in the bag?

"I don't know! MTV gave it to us."

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Sex and The City
Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy, Romance • Rated R

What Happens in Vegas
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:50
Saturday 1:25 4:05 7:05 9:50
Sunday 1:25 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
Friday 4:25 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:15
Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Synopsis
Set in the desert Southwest in 1957—at the height of the Cold War—ndy and his sidekick Mac have barely escaped a close scrape with nefarious Soviet agents on a remote airfield. Now, Professor Jones has returned home to Marshall College—only to find things have gone from bad to worse. His close friend and dean of the college explains that Indy's recent activities have made him the object of suspicion, and that the government has put pressure on the university to fire him.

Forbidden Kingdom
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Jet Li, Jackie Chan
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Iron Man
Friday 4:00 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:25
Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Speed Racer
Friday 4:10 @ @
Saturday 1:20 4:10 @ @
Sunday 1:20 4:10 @
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 @
Emile Hirsch, Susan Sarandon
Action Adventure • Rated PG

Made of Honor
Friday 4:20 @ 9:30
Saturday @ 4:20 @ 9:30
Sunday @ 4:20 @
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 @
Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

Forgetting Sarah Marshall
Friday @ 7:10 9:40
Saturday @ @ 7:10 9:40
Sunday @ @ 7:10
Mon thru Thurs @ 7:10
Jason Segel, Kristen Bell
Romantic Comedy • Rated R

Baby Mama
Friday @ 7:30 @
Saturday 1:05 @ 7:30 @
Sunday 1:05 @ 7:30
Mon thru Thurs @ 7:30
Tina Fey, Amy Poehler
Comedy • Rated PG-13

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Women give 'Sex' $55.7M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sarah Jessica Parker and her gal pals have not lost their sex appeal. The big-screen " Sex and the City " - reuniting Parker and TV co-stars Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis and Cynthia Nixon - strutted to a $55.7 million opening weekend, far exceeding Hollywood's box office expectations.

That was nearly twice the forecast by distributor Warner Bros., whose head of distribution, Dan Fellman, said he had hoped the movie might deliver a $30 million debut.

"Women power," Fellman said. "It was outstanding this weekend."

Analysts had figured Paramount's "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" might stay atop the box office heap, but it slipped to second place with $46 million in its second weekend. "Indiana Jones" raised its 11-day domestic total to $216.9 million.

"Sex and the City" put up numbers never before seen for a movie aimed mainly at women, who do not tend to rush out in huge numbers for opening weekends the way males do.

"Sex and the City," released under Warner's New Line Cinema banner, had the best debut ever for an R-rated comedy, topping the $45.1 million opening of "American Pie 2."

The movie landed at No. 5 on the all-time list among R-rated films, behind "The Matrix Reloaded" ($91.8 million), "The Passion of the Christ" ($83.8 million), "300" ($70.9 million) and "Hannibal" ($58 million).

"This is a blockbuster for women. This was to women what `Indiana Jones' and `Star Wars,' let's say, are to men," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers.

AP

Presenter Sarah Jessica Parker give sthe award for best male performance Will Smith at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday June 1, 2008 in Los Angeles.

1. "**Sex and the City**," $55.7 million.
2. "**Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull**," $46 million.
3. "**The Strangers**," $20.7 million.
4. "**Iron Man**," $14 million.
5. "**The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**," $13 million.
6. "**What Happens in Vegas**," $6.9 million.
7. "**Baby Mama**," $2.2 million.
8. "**Speed Racer**," $2.1 million.
9. "**Made of Honor**," $2 million.
10. "**Forgetting Sarah Marshall**," $1 million.

The movie picks up four years after the series finale, in which Parker's Carrie Bradshaw and her Manhattan buddies left behind their randy ways to settle into monogamous relationships. In the film, they deal with family and commitment issues while still flaunting their bawdy humor and trendy sense of style.

Hollywood skeptics had doubted the commercial prospects for a movie adaptation of "Sex and the City," which ended its six-year run in 2004. Originally airing on premium cable channel HBO, the show had a loyal but limited fan base and held little appeal for young males, the backbone of the box office.

However, "Sex and the City" mania grew as the movie's release approached, with many women organizing girls-night-out parties to see it with friends on opening day Friday.

"That's why Friday was quite a frenzy," Fellman said. "There were women that came in and bought out entire theaters in advance and invited all their friends."

Women made up 85 percent of the audience on Friday, Fellman said.

The movie pulled in $26.9 million on Friday. On Saturday, however, it took a steep drop with ticket sales dwindling to $17.7 million. Most big films take in more money on Saturday than Friday, so the decline was a sign that the audience for "Sex and the City" could dry up quickly.

Still, the film was on its way to becoming a $100 million hit that could spawn more sequels.

The weekend's other new wide release, Universal's fright flick "The Strangers," debuted solidly at No. 3 with $20.7 million. It stars Liv Tyler and Scott Speedman as a couple terrorized by masked invaders at their vacation home.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

Moore, Kutcher raise funds for homeless

AP

Actors Ashton Kutcher, left, and Demi Moore arrive at the 7th Annual Chrysalis Butterfly Ball on Saturday, May 31, 2008, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher and several of their famous colleagues—including newlyweds Charlie Sheen and Brooke Mueller—spread their wings Saturday night at the exclusive Butterfly Ball fundraiser benefiting Chrysalis, a Los Angeles-based organization that helps homeless men and women find jobs and homes.

"We love it, and we really believe in it," Moore said before the event.

Sheen and Mueller created a stir among photographers and reporters when they arrived on the ball's purple carpet. It was the first public appearance by the recently married couple, who wed Friday night. The "Two and a Half Men" star and real estate developer were engaged last summer after meeting at the Chrysalis Butterfly Ball in 2006. The newlyweds didn't stay for this year's ceremony.

Inside, the evening almost served as a "That '70s Show" reunion. Before dinner, Topher Grace stopped by Kutcher's table, just a few seats away from fellow former ""70s Show" co-star Mila Kunis. Kutcher and Grace were interrupted by 15-year-old singer Spensha Baker, who performed after Geffen Records chairman Ron Fair was honored. Baker was eager to meet the "What Happens in Vegas" star.

The casts of "Grey's Anatomy" and "Private Practice" were also out en masse to laud executive producer Mark Gordon during the ceremony, which was attended by over 800 people. Among them: Katherine Heigl, Kate Walsh, Tim Daly, Eric Dane, T.R. Knight and Justin Chambers, who has no idea what will ensue following his character Alex's steamy season finale kiss with Heigl's Izzie.

Neil Young driven to work on electric car

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Neil Young, the rocker who provided some of the soundtrack to Vietnam-era protests, is trying to change the world again—with his car.

Young has teamed up with Johnathan Goodwin, a Wichita mechanic who has developed a national reputation for re-engineering the power units of big cars to get more horsepower but use less fuel.

The two are looking to convert Young's 1959 Lincoln Continental convertible to operate on an electric battery. Ultimately, they said, they want the Continental to provide a model for the world's first affordable mass-produced electric-powered automobile.

"Johnathan and this car are going to make history," Young told The Wichita Eagle. "We're going to change the world; we're going to create a car that will allow us to stop giving our wealth to other countries for petroleum."

Young has poured about $120,000 so far into the project, Goodwin said.

What's more, the prototype power system worked during a 12-mile test drive of the car last week—albeit with a few glitches.

"She was awesome," Young said of the battery-operated car. "Her acceleration was incredible, she moved with hardly a sound; it was so quiet we could hear the wind through the tags of other cars."

Daughter gains both weight and guilt after mother's death

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEARABBY: Before her death, I promised my mother that I would not get fat like her. Now I'm finding it hard to keep that promise. Ever since we lost Mama, I have slowly gained a little each year. I have tried to lose, but all I do is look at food and I gain.

If this keeps up I'll become the size my mother was. Does that mean I failed her because I broke my promise? I feel so guilty. Please help me.

JUST LIKE MY MAMA IN TEXAS

DEAR LIKE MAMA: The answer is no, so stop feeling guilty. Guilt has nothing to do with it. It's common for people to gain weight after 30, and I can confirm from personal experience that it doesn't happen because anyone "looks" at food.

Weight gain is a form of banking. If we deposit more money in our saving account than we spend, we have a large savings account. On the other hand, if we spend more than save, the account dwindles. It's the same with weight. Eat more calories than we burn, the result is a fat we-know-what. To "spend" calories rather than wearing them, a change in diet and a program of regular exercise are necessary.

Also, people don't necessarily eat because they are hungry. Some overindulge for emotional reasons. I recently received a letter that could be of help to you. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am alive because, in one of your columns, you provided the contact information for Overeaters Anonymous. I wrote to the address listed and, within days, received a friendly note offering support. Like many others with an overeating problem, I waited more than two years before going to my first meeting. But that meeting changed my life. I have been in recovery from compulsive eating for 32 years. My life today is better than I could have ever imagined.

There are about 6,500 Overeaters Anonymous (OA) groups in 75 countries. Patterned after the 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous, they offer recovery from compulsive eating. Because today obesity, with all its attendant health problems, is acknowledged as an epidemic, I hope you will again mention OA to your readers. Fellow sufferers and their physicians are sometimes resorting to drastic measures to help them lose weight. My life was saved thanks to this program and the fact your mentioned it. Thank you.

DONNA S. IN TEXAS

DEAR DONNA S.: Thank YOU for the timely reminder that for weight loss, a support group can make the difference between success and failure. Overeaters Anonymous is listed in many telephone books and also on the Internet at www.oa.org. It charges no dues or fees, and no membership lists are kept. There is no shaming, no weighing in and no embarrassment. Everyone meets on common ground and is welcomed with open arms into a fellowship of women and men who all share the same problem. The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop eating compulsively.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Do you think a person can be taught "common sense," or is it something you are born with?

CURIOUS

DEAR CURIOUS: Common sense is something a person is born with. I have heard from many people with professional degrees, but no common sense.

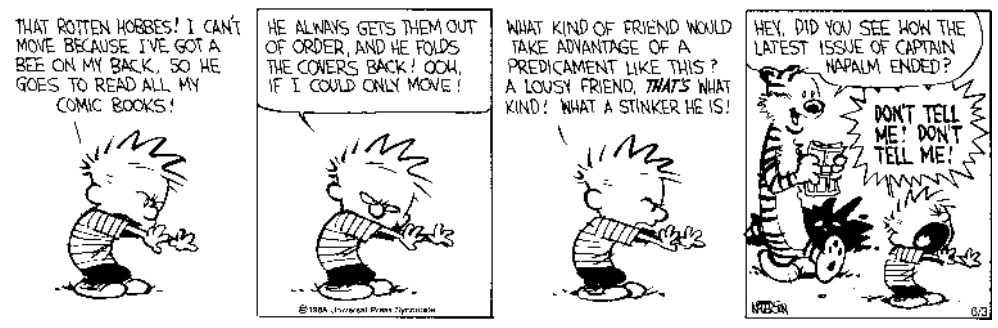
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THAT ROTTEN HOBBES! I CAN'T MOVE BECAUSE I'VE GOT A BEE ON MY BACK, SO HE GOES TO READ ALL MY COMIC BOOKS!
HE ALWAYS GETS THEM OUT OF ORDER, AND HE FOLDS THE COVERS BACK! OOH, IF I COULD ONLY MOVE!
WHAT KIND OF FRIEND WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A PREDICAMENT LIKE THIS? A LOUSY FRIEND, THAT'S WHAT KIND! WHAT A STINKER HE IS!
HEY, DID YOU SEE HOW THE LATEST ISSUE OF CAPTAIN NAPALM ENDED?
DON'T TELL ME! DON'T TELL ME!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

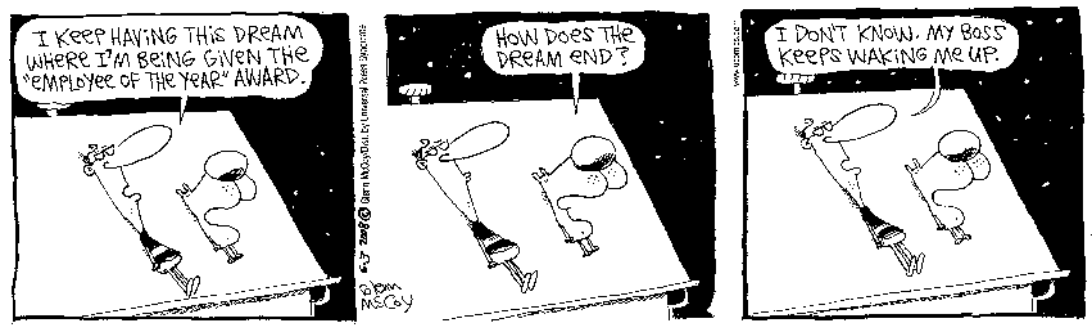
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

6/3
ADAM'S HELPFUL TIPS FOR BALANCING WORK and FAMILY.
2. SET BOUNDARIES.
TAKE YOUR OUTDOOR VOICES OUTSIDE AND KEEP A MINIMUM OF 40 FEET FROM MY OFFICE WINDOW.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I KEEP HAVING THIS DREAM WHERE I'M BEING GIVEN THE "EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR" AWARD.
HOW DOES THE DREAM END?
I DON'T KNOW. MY BOSS KEEPS WAKING ME UP.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wield a cleaver
5 Sturgeon young
8 "Thirty days — ..."
12 Shake in the grass?
13 Grecian vessel
14 "Sopranos" actress Falco
15 Census data
16 It may hit the fan
18 Nickname of football's Ed Jones
20 Ready for battle
21 First lady
22 Work with
23 21-Across' tempter
26 Gypsum board
30 That girl
31 Conger, e.g.
32 Old Oldsmobile
33 Trap
36 Half of 100
38 "Monopoly" quartet (Abbr.)
39 Here-today-gone-tomorrow trend
40 Jellied entree
43 Boo
47 GIs' dining facility
49 Met melody
50 Soak up some rays
51 Existed
52 Cincinnati team
53 Scraps
54 CBS logo
55 Morse symbol

DOWN

1 Converse
2 "Les Miserables" author
3 Bread topper
4 Light shade
5 Russian money
6 By word of mouth
7 Type measures
8 Semitic language
9 Leading man?
10 Mahjongg piece
11 Contained
17 Simple
19 "Hail, Caesar!"
22 Internet address
23 Cleo's slayer
24 — Beta Kappa
25 Favorite
26 Eastern st.
27 "Bow-wow!"
28 Allow
29 Actress Myrna
31 Golfer Ernie
34 Checks for weapons
35 St. Louis landmark
36 Corpulent
37 Age proof
39 Quiz answer
40 Church desk
41 Burn slightly
42 Hushed "Hey, you!"
43 Sculptor's medium
44 Vicinity
45 Covers
46 Whip
48 Shock and —

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	O	A	R	■	F	O	B	■	A	T	O	M
A	L	I	A	■	O	R	A	■	T	H	A	T
R	.	N	G	■	L	O	N	G	H	O	R	N
P	O	T	T	E	D	■	C	O	A	R	S	E
■	■	■	A	V	E	S	■	O	N	O	■	■
L	.	N	G	E	R	E	D	■	D	U	B	S
E	M	U	■	R	O	D	E	O	■	G	E	E
E	P	I	C	■	L	E	N	G	T	H	E	N
■	■	■	S	A	G	■	R	I	L	E	■	■
F	L	A	U	N	T	■	Z	E	A	L	O	T
L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	■	R	O	D	E
E	T	C	H	■	N	O	N	■	U	P	O	N
W	H	E	T	■	K	T	S	■	P	E	R	T

Yesterday's answer 6-3

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lalaine, 21; Anderson Cooper, 41; Deniece Williams, 58; Suzi Quatro, 58

Happy Birthday: You have a great year ahead of you if you don't give in to others' demands or put off what you know in your heart needs to be pushed forward now. Your ideas will be good and can help you make personal, professional and financial gains. This is a year of change. Your numbers are 11, 13, 21, 24, 30, 36

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll get plenty of input but trying to fit it all in will defeat the purpose of what you are trying to accomplish. Keep things simple and scaled down and you will be successful. Listen to your intuition, not what others say. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Through collaboration and a couple of changes to old ideas, you will be well on your way to doing something that offers excitement and the potential to make you some cash. Promote and present. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to your own game plan, no matter what others do. Thrive on the unexpected and make each alteration you face a new adventure. Productivity will be the key. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let others step up and reveal thoughts before you decide to divulge your own secrets, ideas or considerations. A change is upon you but it won't be bad and, the less you fight it, the better off you will be in the end. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll get all the help you need but you will still have to keep an eye out to make sure that someone doesn't make changes you don't want. A creative, moneymaking deal looks positive. You could very well turn out to be the hero of the day. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let anyone goad you into something you don't want to do. You will face opposition and the very people you think are on your side will probably disappoint you. A change will put you back in control where you belong. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll have all sorts of opportunities but, if you try to do things on too big a scale, you will lose out. Travel will help you get a better feel on what you can and cannot do. Love is moving upward. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Catch up on all the little things that need doing. You can decorate, renovate or even make a physical move that will benefit you. Work issues may be a concern if someone argues over money matters. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't count on anyone or anything. Do what needs to be done to your specifications and keeping moving forward. Consider carefully walking away from anyone who doesn't give you a fair shake. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may find yourself caught up in someone else's whirlwind. Before you get too wrapped up, consider the cost. Play it safe rather than being sorry. There is money to be made but not based on someone else's whim. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Domestic matters should be dealt with. Make your place soothing and convenient for you. Not everyone will agree with you but you should be able to keep things moving. Love is in the picture. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Reevaluate your position before you make a rash statement or a move that will be impossible to undo. Emotional matters will be resolved but what you have to go through to accomplish this may not be worth it. Call in a favor if you must. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are talkative, a little pushy and know how to get your way. You show great strength and courage. You are problem-solver and like trying new things.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	3		8	6	1		2	
4								1
				7				
9			1		3			4
7		5				9		3
2			7		6			8
				1				
1								7
	9		4	2	7		3	

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	3	9	7	2	8	4	5
9	8	7	5	4	6	3	2	1
4	5	2	3	8	1	6	7	9
2	4	9	8	1	7	5	3	6
6	3	8	4	2	5	9	1	7
7	1	5	6	3	9	2	8	4
3	2	6	1	9	4	7	5	8
8	9	1	7	5	3	4	6	2
5	7	4	2	6	8	1	9	3

Difficulty Level ♦ 6/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MODERN TELECONFERENCING Solution: 8 letters

S	Y	S	T	E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	E	S	T	R
E	T	R	U	K	N	I	L	A	U	T	R	I	V	E
C	L	U	B	O	K	R	O	W	T	E	N	C	V	B
I	I	A	D	U	E	R	E	A	L	T	I	E	O	M
F	S	T	U	Y	S	N	M	L	E	P	N	A	E	Ⓤ
F	T	N	A	T	I	I	A	R	O	T	R	R	Ⓢ	N
O	E	E	N	U	C	W	N	T	S	D	A	Ⓔ	O	T
G	N	I	E	D	E	A	A	E	L	H	Ⓡ	I	S	E
N	R	L	C	R	T	U	G	L	S	U	S	E	E	N
I	E	C	I	I	I	D	E	M	A	S	M	V	L	R
N	E	F	O	N	M	I	M	D	E	U	I	I	A	E
N	R	N	V	N	E	O	E	S	I	E	S	L	S	T
A	A	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	C	A	T	I	O	N
L	C	D	E	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	L	G	V	I
P	A	S	S	W	O	R	D	I	S	T	A	N	C	E

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Yesterday's Answer: Mystery

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Perry joins Tiger as only 3-time Memorial winners

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Kenny Perry joined Tiger Woods as the only three-time winner of the Memorial on Sunday, taking a big step toward joining the No. 1 player in the world on the Ryder Cup team this fall.

With every contender in full retreat on the back nine, the 47-year-old Perry surged ahead with pars and one timely birdie, coasting home to a 3-under 69 and a two-shot victory that could not have come at a better time.

He became the oldest winner at the tournament Jack Nicklaus built, and as he walked off the green to warm handshake from the tournament host, Perry soon was surrounded by his wife and three children. It was the first time in his two decades on the PGA Tour all of them had been at a tournament he won.

Bigger still was his answer to U.S. captain Paul Azinger's statement earlier in the week, that anyone making his Ryder Cup team would almost certainly have to win on tour this year.

Perry, who squandered two chances in the previous three weeks, delivered his best golf of the year.

He finished at 8-under 280, the highest winning score at the Memorial in 23 years. Perry earned $1.08 million for his 10th career victory, which translates to 1,080 points toward the Ryder Cup, moving him up to No. 5 in the standings.

The Ryder Cup will be held at Valhalla in his native Kentucky, and Perry is so desperate to make the team that he won't even bother qualifying for the U.S. Open. He does not like Torrey Pines, and figures he should devote his energy to tournaments where he has a better chance of earning points, such as Memphis next week and Hartford the week after the U.S. Open.

AP
Kenny Perry poses with the Memorial golf tournament trophy Sunday, June 1, 2008 in Dublin, Ohio. Perry finished at 8-under-par to win the tournament.

"When he (Azinger) said in the paper that you're probably going to have to win a tournament to get on his team, that changed my thinking," Perry said. "I'm glad I saw it."

Third-round leader Mathew Goggin lost his three-shot advantage in three holes and stumbled home to a 74, tied for second with former Masters champion Mike Weir, Justin Rose and Jerry Kelly, all of whom closed with a 71.

All of them had their chances until dropping shots somewhere along the back nine.

Perry took the lead with a birdie on the ninth hole and never gave it up. He effectively secured victory with a 5-wood to 12 feet on the par-5 15th hole, and while he had to settle for a two-putt birdie, it gave him a three-shot lead with three holes remaining.

"I hadn't seen you all week," he told Nicklaus walking off the 18th green. "It's nice to see you here."

Nicklaus, who played 43 consecutive U.S. Opens and won four of them, didn't flinch earlier Sunday when told that Perry was skipping the national championship.

"My goal was never to make the Ryder Cup. It was to win the U.S. Open," Nicklaus said. "But I understand. Being in Kentucky, it's a big thing for Kenny. He's looking at the big picture for him to do what he wants to do."

Perry was one shot behind going into the final round of The Players Championship and closed with an 81. He was in a playoff in the AT&T Classic outside Atlanta two weeks ago when his second shot to the par 5 caromed off the base of a tree and shot back across the green and into the water.

"Magic always happens here," said Perry, who also won in 1991 and 2005.

It sure didn't happen for anyone else.

Goggin's three-shot margin was gone in three holes, and his lead vanished in four, courtesy of two bogeys as everyone else was moving forward. The only consolation was a birdie at No. 18 and a tie for second, matching his best PGA Tour result.

"It took me three, four holes to calm down," Goggin said. "And that was the difference."

Four players had a share of the lead on the front nine, all of them poised to take charge.

Rose was the first to 8 under when he holed a bunker shot for eagle on No. 7, but he retreated with a bogey from the bunker on the next hole and fell apart early on the back nine, not all by his own doing. Still in range of the lead, Rose watched an approach just left of the flag on No. 13 hit a sprinkler in the fringe and carom into the gallery, leading to bogey.

Weir, trying to become Canada's biggest PGA Tour winner with his ninth victory, chipped in for birdie from short of the ninth green to make the turn at 8 under and tied for the lead, but he also gave away shots early on the back nine. Weir came up short on the 10th and missed a 10-foot par putt, then went over the 11th green with a wedge into rough so deep he could barely see his ball.

Weir had the last chance, two shots behind until missing a 7-foot birdie on the 17th.

"When you win a tournament, you guess right a few times," Weir said. "Today, three times in a row I guessed wrong."

Kelly never had a share of the lead, but he felt as miserable as the rest of them. Perry made his lone bogey on the 17th to fall to 8 under, and Kelly was 3 feet away for birdie to pull within one shot. His putt caught the lip and spun 5 feet away.

Djokovic: Work to do before facing Nadal in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Novak Djokovic will leave the looking ahead to others. If he's to be believed, the No. 3-ranked Djokovic has more immediate concerns than a possible French Open semifinal against No. 2 Rafael Nadal or final against No. 1 Roger Federer.

First things first at Roland Garros for Djokovic: a quarterfinal against Ernests Gulbis, set up by three-set victories for both men Sunday. Never heard of Gulbis? Djokovic has. Knows the 19-year-old kid from Latvia quite well, in fact.

They go way back, having shared adventures on and off the court a few years ago at coach Niki Pilic's tennis academy in Munich, Germany.

"He was destroying me in practices. I couldn't win a match. Practice? No chance," Djokovic said, then added with a wink and a smile: "So all the pressure's on him, OK? He's the favorite."

Sure, Novak. Actually, because their careers have followed completely divergent paths, Djokovic knows full well he must be considered the overwhelming pick in what will be his first professional meeting with Gulbis.

Djokovic—who beat No. 18 Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 Sunday—reached the U.S. Open final in September, then knocked off Federer en route to winning the Australian Open in January. He's reached the semifinals at four consecutive major championships, cementing his status as part of the trio of men head-and-shoulders above the rest.

"I'm ... a Grand Slam champion. Get a lot of respect and appreciation from the players," said Djokovic, who is 3-7 against Nadal, including exits from the past two French Opens. "It's a different approach. I have more confidence and I believe much more in myself."

And Gulbis? He came to Roland Garros with a 7-10 record this season and never had been past the fourth round at a Slam until beating Michael Llodra 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-3 on Sunday.

"I played better and better," said the 80th-ranked Gulbis, who eliminated No. 7 James Blake of the United States in the second round.

Gulbis used all of his 6-foot-3 frame to uncork 11 aces and 18 passing shot winners against Llodra.

"Very powerful serve," Llodra said. "You can't see exactly where he's going to serve."

Like Djokovic, Nadal is rather familiar with his next opponent, No. 19 Nicolas Almagro, and had nothing but nice things to say about him.

"One of the toughest opponents on clay," Nadal said. "Probably going to be my toughest match this week."

The three-time defending champion reached the quarterfinals by hammering out the most lopsided of his 25 consecutive French Open victories, 6-1, 6-0, 6-2 over No. 22 Fernando Verdasco. Oddly enough, Nadal's opponents so far this year all were left-handed, the first time a man has faced four consecutive southpaws at a Grand Slam tournament in the 40-year Open Era.

That certainly hasn't given Nadal any problems. He did, however, get a bit of a scare while warming up after a 50-minute rain delay one game into the second set. Nadal felt dizzy, and a tournament official, doctor and trainer all came out to check on him.

Nadal ate some bread and bananas, and then, he said, "I started feeling better and better."

Almagro was a 7-6 (0), 7-6 (7), 7-5 winner over 145th-ranked Jeremy Chardy, a wild-card entry who combined with Mathieu and Llodra to make France 0-3 for the day.

The second set ended with an unusual—and potentially dangerous—sight. Angry that he couldn't get to a ball in time after Almagro's shot clipped the net, Chardy violently spiked his racket. It bounced 10 feet in the air, cleared the net and landed not far from Almagro.

The Spaniard picked up the racket and handed it to Chardy as they went to the sideline to sit between sets.

As with the men, all four women's matches Sunday were settled in straight sets. No. 2 Ana Ivanovic had the easiest time, putting together a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Petra Cetkovska, and was joined in the quarterfinals by No. 3 Jelena Jankovic, No. 10 Patty Schnyder and qualifier Carla Suarez Navarro.

The players responsible for the two biggest surprises of the tournament lost. Schnyder beat No. 27 Katarina Srebotnik, who eliminated Serena Williams, and Suarez Navarro beat No. 26 Flavia Pennetta, who eliminated Venus Williams.

"I thought the match would probably be a bit more difficult," said the 132nd-ranked Suarez Navarro, the first woman since 2001 to reach the French Open quarterfinals after needing to qualify for the tournament.

She now meets Jankovic, who got a massage from a trainer for pain in her shoulder and neck during a 6-3, 7-6 (3) victory over No. 14 Agnieszka Radwanska.

"I was struggling at the end," said Jankovic, who lost five consecutive games in the second set. "I was just trying to guide the ball with my arm, which was not enough. I needed to go for it, even though I had pain."

And as for her game plan against Suarez?

"Never seen her play before," Jankovic said.

Gulbis is becoming less and less of an unknown quantity, which is his explanation for a rough second season on tour.

"First year, I was just a newcomer. Nobody knew me. Nobody knew the way I play. Nobody knew how to play against me," he said. "Now people, players, they already know me a little bit. They know the way I play, so it's a little tougher."

Djokovic will do his best to remember Gulbis' game when they meet Tuesday, so he can take another step toward another match against Nadal.

Ramirez hits 501st homer in Boston's 9-4 win over Orioles

BALTIMORE (AP)—Manny Ramirez hit his 501st home run, Mike Lowell and J.D. Drew also connected, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 9-4 in the American League on Sunday.

After becoming the 24th major leaguer to hit No. 500, Ramirez said on Saturday, "The next goal is 501." He took care of that in his third at-bat, driving a pitch from Brian Burres (4-5) into the right-field seats to put Boston up 6-3 in the fourth inning.

Lowell homered two pitches later, and the Red Sox were on their way to making it three straight wins over the skidding Orioles. On Monday, Boston will seek its first four-game sweep in Baltimore since 2002.

Serving as the designated hitter for injured David Ortiz (sprained wrist), Ramirez went 3-for-5, drove in three runs and scored twice. Drew, who missed two straight starts because of vertigo, had three RBIs. Jason Ellsbury had three hits and a stolen base, his seventh in the series.

Rays 4, White Sox 3, 10 innings

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Gabe Gross hit a leadoff homer in the 10th inning, giving AL East-leading Tampa Bay a comeback victory over Chicago.

Gross, making a rare start against left-handed pitching, lined a two-run triple off Mark Buehrle to make it 3-all in the fifth. Gross then delivered his third homer of the season on an 0-2 pitch from lefty Matt Thornton (1-1) in the 10th.

Twins 5, Yankees 1

At Minneapolis, Michael Cuddyer drove in three runs and Minnesota's bullpen came through with 4 2-3 innings of scoreless relief after starter Nick Blackburn was hit in the nose by Bobby Abreu's line drive.

Blackburn walked off the field under his own power, escorted by a trainer with a bloody towel pressed against his face. The Twins said Blackburn did not lose consciousness or any teeth. He has a bruised nose.

Royals 6, Indians 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Brian Bannister pitched into the eighth inning and Mark Grudzielanek and Jose Guillen homered to help Kansas City beat Cleveland, a day after the Royals snapped a 12-game losing streak.

Bannister (5-6) was working on a shutout when Grady Sizemore homered with one out in the eighth.

Guillen, who went into a tirade and called his teammates "babies" after they squandered a five-run lead and lost their 10th straight on Wednesday, was 3-for-4 with two RBIs.

Angels 4, Blue Jays 3

At Anaheim, California, Toronto closer B.J. Ryan hit Howie Kendrick with a pitch to force home the tying run in the ninth inning, and Maicer Izturis singled in the game-winner one pitch later for Los Angeles.

All four of the Angels' victories on this six-game homestand were walk-off wins.

Athletics 13, Rangers 8

At Arlington, Texas, Jack Cust and Mark Ellis homered in a nine-run seventh inning as Oakland rallied past Texas to end a four-game losing streak.

Josh Hamilton hit his AL-best 15th homer and drove in two runs, giving him a major league-high 63 RBIs. Milton Bradley also homered and drove in three runs for the Rangers, who led 7-4 after six innings. But the first eight Athletics hitters reached base in the seventh before Texas' bullpen could register an out.

Tigers 7, Mariners 5

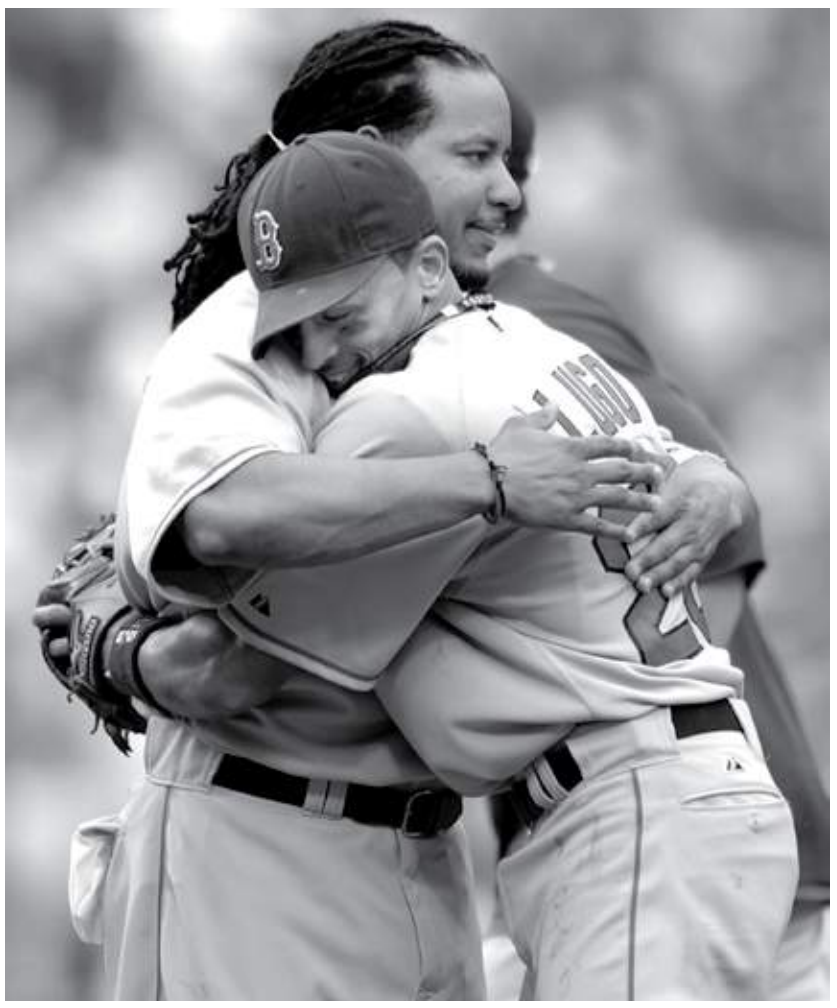
At Seattle, Placido Polanco hit a tie-breaking single and Detroit scored four times in the ninth inning off struggling J.J. Putz to beat Seattle.

Magglio Ordonez and Miguel Cabrera each drove in two runs as the Tigers, wayward for most of the season against everyone else, won for the fifth time in six meetings with the Mariners.

Cubs 5, Rockies 3

At Chicago, Alfonso Soriano homered, Jim Edmonds drove in two runs and the Chicago Cubs beat the reeling Colorado Rockies to complete a perfect seven-game homestand.

The Cubs entered June with the best record in the major leagues for the first time since 1908, when they last won a World Series. They started the new month by finishing a four-game sweep of the defending NL champions and sending them to their seventh straight loss.



AP

Boston Red Sox's Manny Ramirez, left, hugs teammate Julio Lugo, right, after defeating the Baltimore Orioles 9-4 in a baseball game Sunday, June 1, 2008, in Baltimore.

Phillies 7, Marlins 5

At Philadelphia, Chase Utley hit his MLB-leading 20th homer, Pat Burrell had a tiebreaking, two-run double and Philadelphia rallied to get the win.

Geoff Jenkins connected for the second pinch-hit homer of his career to help Philadelphia win the weekend series.

Mike Jacobs hit a solo homer in the second and a three-run drive in the third to help Florida build a 5-1 lead.

Reds 6, Braves 2

At Cincinnati, Jay Bruce had a solo shot and a run-scoring single to lead Cincinnati to the victory.

Rookie right-hander Johnny Cueto (4-5) allowed only a bunt single through the first six innings against an Atlanta team that can't do anything right on the road.

Diamondbacks 5, Nationals 0

At Phoenix, Dan Haren tossed seven sharp innings and Orlando Hudson hit a three-run homer for Arizona.

Hudson's homer, his second in three days and sixth of the season, came in the first inning and gave Haren (6-4) all the support he would need against the NL's weakest-hitting club. Haren gave up four hits and struck out five.

Brewers 10, Astros 1

At Milwaukee, Ryan Braun and Russell Branyan hit two-run homers and Milwaukee swept the weekend series.

Gabe Kapler and Craig Counsell each went 2-for-4 with two RBIs for the Brewers, who have earned their first sweep since April 4-6.

Mark Loretta homered for Houston, which has lost a season-worst five straight.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 4

At St. Louis, Braden Looper continued his torrid hitting to help earn himself a win.

Looper had two singles, scored twice, and drove in a run to raise his batting average to .429—tops among pitchers in the majors. On the mound, Looper (7-4) allowed eight hits and three runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Skip Schumaker drove in a career-high three runs for the Cardinals.

Giants 4, Padres 3, 10 innings

At San Francisco, pinch-hitter Fred Lewis hit a two-run, game-tying triple off San Diego closer Trevor Hoffman in the 10th inning and scored the winning run on Jose Castillo's infield single.

San Diego had taken a 3-1 lead when Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the top half of the inning against Alex Hinshaw (1-0) and appeared on its way to its season-high fourth straight win.

But Hoffman blew his third save of the season and first since April 23.

San Francisco starter Tim Lincecum allowed one run and four hits in seven-plus innings, lowering his ERA to 2.23, second best in the NL.

Mets 6, Dodgers 1

At New York, Johan Santana earned his 100th win, Carlos Beltran and Ryan Church each hit a two-run homer and suddenly surging New York beat Los Angeles.

Back in the lineup after his second concussion this year, Church capped a five-run third with his shot to right. He had three hits for the Mets, who took three of four from the Dodgers in manager Joe Torre's return to New York, winning consecutive series for the first time since mid-April.

Matt Kemp had three hits and drove in the only run for Los Angeles, which heads home after winning just once on a seven-game trip.

Santana (7-3) gave up six hits in 7 2-3 innings to win for the sixth time in seven decisions.

Hiroki Kuroda (2-5) gave up six runs and seven hits in 2 2-3 innings, the shortest start of his major league career.

Celtics' turnaround didn't start on lottery day

BOSTON (AP)—This is not how the Boston Celtics planned to get back to the NBA finals. The league's luckiest franchise saw its luck run out—again—in the draft lottery last year, coming up with the worst possible pick and no shot at the megastars slotted 1-2. What the Celtics couldn't know at the time was that it was the best thing that could have happened.

"We hit rock bottom with the lottery—as bad as we could do—and then Danny (Ainge) went to work," co-owner Bob Epstein said Sunday. "Not everything is a master plan. A lot of skill in any endeavor is being able to be opportunistic as well."

The Celtics took advantage of their opportunities just fine after the lottery setback, landing Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen in trades that helped them reach the NBA finals for the first time since Ainge and the original Big Three made it there in 1987.

Game 1 against the Los Angeles Lakers is Thursday night.

In a series of interviews over the weekend, the owners who bought the team in 2002 explained the turnaround from 24-58 lottery loser to Eastern Conference champion. It didn't happen that night at the draft lottery, and it didn't even happen during the monthlong trading spree in which Ainge brought in Garnett and Allen to join with All-Star holdover Paul Pierce.

"Everybody wants to talk about the overnight success, but I think that this was five years in the making," co-owner Steve Pagliuca said. "The plan was: draft well, build up chips and build this into a championship team. We had the pieces, and we thought something good was going to happen—this year, next year. It came together very nicely."

The NBA's most decorated franchise, the Celtics were once synonymous with success—winning 16 championships from 1957 to '86. But twice since their last title they've dropped to the bottom of the standings in hopes of landing a big lottery prize, only to see the chances go against them.

With two potential franchise players at the top of last year's draft, Greg Oden and Kevin Durant, the Celtics seemed in good position to pick up a key part of their turnaround. But three teams jumped over them in the lottery, and they wound up with the No. 5 selection.

"It was the worst possible pick we could have gotten, and it felt like the worst possible thing," said managing partner Wyc Grousbeck, who was in the sealed-off room where the lots were drawn and found out about an hour before the TV audience that the Celtics had dropped to the fifth spot.

"I spent 50-55 minutes going, 'This is really terrible. I feel really badly for all the Boston fans who were about to find out.' I just felt really unlucky," he said. "There was no joy in Mudville."

Then came Plan B. And C.

Ainge tried to trade the No. 5 pick and developing big man Al Jefferson for Garnett, but Garnett didn't want to come to a losing team and the Celtics didn't want him unless he'd agree to an extension. So Ainge sent the first-round pick—which, other than Paul Pierce, was his most valuable commodity—to Seattle in a package for Allen.

Suddenly, Garnett was interested. Ainge picked him up from the Timberwolves in an unprecedented 7-for-1 deal and the Celtics were on their way to 66 wins—the biggest turnaround in NBA history—and a return to the finals against their archrival.

Pagliuca was at the team's training facility in Waltham, Mass., watching the lottery on TV when the camera panned around the room and showed Grousbeck, who wore a green pinstriped suit he had made for the occasion as well as a frown he tailored himself.

"Wyc looked like he had been shot, so we knew we didn't have the first pick," Pagliuca said. "We spent a lot of time hoping for the first draft pick, but we knew there would be plenty of players available. Garnett was the No. 1 possibility."

The owners are effusive in their praise for Ainge—not just for making big trades, but also for drafting the "chips" that he cashed in for the All-Stars.

Without picks such as Al Jefferson (15th overall), Gerald Green (18th), Delonte West (24th) and Ryan Gomes (20th in the second round), they wouldn't have been able to acquire Garnett.

"Look at the players he's drafted, down the line, who are going to be fixtures in the league," said Irv Grousbeck, Wyc's father and another member of the ownership group.

Ainge also drafted Rajon Rondo (21st) and Kendrick Perkins (27th), non-lottery players who fill out the starting five of the Eastern Conference champions. Leon Powe and Glen "Big Baby" Davis were second-rounders who've contributed off the bench this season.

BANMI calling on teams for 25-under, Rotary caging

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will soon kick off action in the 25-and-under Basketball League and the Saipan Rotary Club Summer Youth Basketball League.

With this in mind, the islands' basketball governing body is calling on all interested teams that would like to participate in the upcoming youth leagues to start preparing.

Entrance fee for the 25-and-under cage league is $800, while that for the Rotary league is $200.

While there is no date yet set for the start of the 25-and-under league, the Rotary cage competition is set to unfurl on July 7. Teams should be ready to present documents such as birth certificates or other proof of age as well as waiver forms to the organizing committee.

This year's Rotary caging will adopt a two age group format—Division I (age group for 12 to 14 years old) and Division II (age group for 15 to 18).

For more inquiries about the 25-and-under Basketball League and the Saipan Rotary Club Summer Youth Basketball League, contact coordinators Abner Venus at 483-4906 or Elias Rangamar at 664-2502.

Ulloa's won the 2007 SaipanCell 25-and-under Youth Basketball League crown, beating the Southern Sonics, 2-1, in their best-of-three championship series.

The team clinched the crown after a 90-81 victory in Game 3. Ulloa's took Game 1, 101-86, but Southern Sonics roared back with a 100-94 victory in Game 2.

The defending champion for the 2008 Rotary league, meanwhile, is the CNMI Junior Nationals.

The team's championship also came at the expense of the Southern Sonics, as the Rufino Aguon-coached Junior Nationals won the winner-take-all finals late last year in a score of 98-91.

MARK RABAGO

Ulloa's won the 2007 SaipanCell 25-and-under Youth Basketball League crown, beating the Southern Sonics, 2-1, in their best-of-three championship series.

FOUR

From Page 28

of Survivors.

Selected as manager of the Saipan Major League All-Stars was Randall Aguon of the Red Sox, while Ol'Aces' Elmer Sablan and Patriots' Many Sablan will serve as head coach and assistant coach, respectively.

The 14-man Saipan Major League All-Stars will go up against teams from Tinian and Rota in the district tournament for the division set on June 12 and 13 on Rota.

The Major League District Tournament will be played at the new Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo.

Major All-Star teams from the three major islands of the Commonwealth will play in a double round-robin format to decide which team will represent the islands in the regional tournaments set next month in Hong Kong.

The SaipanCell Patriots won the Major League championship last May 28 following a 15-0 demolition of the Dragons.

It marked the third straight year, the Thelma Mizer-managed team went all the way to the finals and won the crown.

Last year, the Patriots repeated as champions after a 20-1 drubbing of the Hustlers. The win capped an 18-0 season, including 15-0 in the regular season.

The year before, the Patriots won the Major League title following an 11-7 win over the Tanapag Braves. The team went 21-0 in 2006, including 18-0 in the regular season.

FALCONS

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Quitano, luckily for the Falcons, had the presence of mind to keep on going, touching second base and dashed toward third base in full steam before beating the throw at the plate for the game-winning run.

It was the second time in the game that Quitano bailed his team out of trouble, as he also scored the tying run in the bottom of the ninth on an RBI by Ned Norita.

The Falcons actually were fortunate to send the game into extra innings after seeing their 8-5 lead evaporate in the eighth inning, as the Dreams also capitalized on Tanapag's own miscues to take a 9-8 advantage.

Four Dreams runners crossed home plate in the eighth as Jun Salalila drove in Otta, Harland Reyes and Salalila scored on consecutive errors by leftfielder Roy Magofna, and Shane Mendiola gave them the lead when Norita mishandled the throw to third base.

Falcons struck first and led 2-0 after four innings before the Dreams erupted for five runs in the fifth to take a 5-2 lead.

The team from Tanapag retaliated with three runs apiece in the sixth and seventh innings to peg the score at 8-5.

Norita went on to lead Tanapag, going 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs. Mike Pangelinan matched Norita's 3-for-4 at the plate and added an RBI for good measure.

Harland Reyes led the Dreams with a 2-for-4 performance at the plate as well as two RBIs.

McGregory Camacho took the win for Falcons after taking the mound for starting pitcher Pete Teigita in the fifth. Shane Mendiola, meanwhile, was assessed the loss after relieving for Thomas Joab.

The win allowed the Falcons to keep pace of second place Ford Rangers as the two teams are now tied at 6-3 in the team standings, behind the unblemished 9-0 record of Rock Steady. The loss, meanwhile, leveled the win-loss card of the Dreams to 5-5.

TWO

From Page 28

ished in a time of 10:53 to win the two-mile children's course. Ernest Sablan (13:10) and Steven Goodwin (19:37) also took part in the race.

Seasoned triathletes Butch Sublemente and Mieko Carey topped the open category of last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

Sublemente reached the finish line at the American Memorial Park in 57:02, while Carey finished sixth overall and tops among women cyclists, timing in at 1:03:21.

A total of 20 mountain bike enthusiasts took part the open category, including Tyce Mister and Nate Hawley who came in second and third in the men's division behind Sublemente with times of 57:20 and 57:22, respectively.

Dr. Florian Braig (59:12) and Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation president Ross Quinn (1:01:17) completed the Top 5.

For the women, Heather Kennedy finished second in a time of 1:20:22, while Kimiko Hasegawa came in third, crossing the finish line in 1:31:27.

Marianas Visitors Authority PR/CP manager Martin Duenas said proceeds from the Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race will go into a charitable trust fund account that will provide an opportunity for nonprofit organizations to submit a grant application. The event was also held as part of the Tourism Month Activities.

The Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race was sponsored by MVA and Hyatt Regency Saipan. Pacific Islands Club, Yano's Ent., Inc., Saipan World Resort, Saipan Grand Hotel, Tasi Tours and Bus Transportation, Northern Marianas Athletics, Ross Quinn (who helped clear the course), and landowners in Mt. Tapochao were also critical in the event's successful staging.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	35	22	.614	–
Boston	35	24	.593	1
Toronto	31	28	.525	5
New York	28	28	.500	6 1/2
Baltimore	26	29	.473	8

Central Division

Chicago	30	26	.536	–
Minnesota	29	27	.518	1
Cleveland	25	31	.446	5
Detroit	24	32	.429	6
Kansas City	23	34	.404	7 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	34	24	.586	–
Oakland	30	27	.526	3 1/2
Texas	29	29	.500	5
Seattle	21	36	.368	12 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	33	25	.569	–
Florida	31	24	.564	1/2
Atlanta	29	28	.509	3 1/2
New York	28	27	.509	3 1/2
Washington	24	34	.414	9

Central Division

Chicago	36	21	.632	–
St. Louis	34	24	.586	2 1/2
Houston	30	28	.517	6 1/2
Milwaukee	29	28	.509	7
Cincinnati	28	29	.491	8
Pittsburgh	26	30	.464	9 1/2

West Division

Arizona	32	25	.561	–
Los Angeles	27	29	.482	4 1/2
San Francisco	24	33	.421	8
San Diego	23	35	.397	9 1/2
Colorado	20	37	.351	12

Yesterday's Games

Boston 9, Baltimore 4
Tampa Bay 4, Chicago White Sox 3, 10 innings
Minnesota 5, N.Y. Yankees 1
Kansas City 6, Cleveland 1
Oakland 13, Texas 8
L.A. Angels 4, Toronto 3
Detroit 7, Seattle 5
Cincinnati 6, Atlanta 2
Philadelphia 7, Florida 5
Milwaukee 10, Houston 1
St. Louis 7, Pittsburgh 4
Chicago Cubs 5, Colorado 3
San Francisco 4, San Diego 3, 10 innings
Arizona 5, Washington 0
N.Y. Mets 6, L.A. Dodgers 1

PGA-MEMORIAL SCORES

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)–Scores Sunday from the Memorial, a $6 million (£3.9 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,366-yard, par-72 Muirfield Village Golf:

FINAL ROUND

Kenny Perry	66-71-74-69	280
Jerry Kelly	66-72-73-71	282
Justin Rose	68-73-70-71	282
Mathew Goggin	65-72-71-74	282
Mike Weir	71-72-68-71	282
Rocco Mediate	70-73-74-69	286
Steve Lowery	70-70-75-71	286
Luke Donald	68-71-74-73	286
Geoff Ogilvy	69-71-73-74	287
Cliff Kresge	73-73-74-68	288
John Mallinger	71-74-74-69	288
Ryan Moore	73-71-75-69	288
Brett Quigley	67-78-74-69	288
Robert Allenby	69-76-72-71	288
Carl Pettersson	68-75-74-71	288
Joe Ogilvie	69-75-71-73	288
Nick O'Hern	70-70-72-76	288
Matt Kuchar	68-72-71-77	288
Tom Lehman	76-70-72-71	289
Nathan Green	75-71-73-71	290
Rod Pampling	67-74-77-72	290
Jason Bohn	72-71-74-73	290
Phil Mickelson	72-75-70-73	290
Stuart Appleby	72-76-68-74	290
J.B. Holmes	74-69-70-77	290
Jon Mills	73-76-74-68	291
Pat Perez	70-73-73-75	291
Nick Watney	68-80-68-75	291
Vaughn Taylor	71-73-70-77	291
Trevor Immelman	72-78-73-69	292
Jeff Quinney	71-79-71-71	292
George McNeill	73-73-75-71	292
Mark Wilson	73-74-74-71	292
Bo Van Pelt	71-76-73-72	292
Johnson Wagner	78-67-74-73	292
Dudley Hart	73-73-71-75	292
Stewart Cink	71-77-69-75	292
Bill Haas	74-72-69-77	292
John Rollins	71-76-76-70	293
Chris DiMarco	75-72-73-73	293
Todd Hamilton	70-76-74-73	293
Sean O'Hair	75-75-69-74	293
Ryuji Imada	75-72-72-74	293
Jim Furyk	71-74-73-75	293
Sergio Garcia	72-77-75-70	294
Richard Green	72-75-77-71	295
Tim Petrovic	73-75-76-71	295
Zach Johnson	71-79-72-73	295
Bart Bryant	76-74-71-74	295
Arron Oberholser	77-71-73-74	295
Fred Couples	72-71-77-75	295
Ben Curtis	76-72-71-76	295
K.J. Choi	76-74-74-72	296
Ian Poulter	75-72-76-73	296
Ken Duke	71-77-75-73	296
Tim Wilkinson	72-75-75-74	296
Daniel Chopra	76-68-76-76	296
Paul Casey	76-71-79-71	297
Aaron Baddeley	74-76-75-72	297
Tom Pernice, Jr.	71-75-82-70	298
Davis Love III	74-74-77-73	298
D.J. Trahan	73-76-78-72	299
Travis Perkins	76-74-75-74	299
Jin Park	75-75-76-75	301
Chez Reavie	73-77-76-75	301
Kevin Na	75-72-73-82	302
John Senden	71-78-73-81	303
Dustin Johnson	75-73-77-79	304
Brett Wetterich	76-73-81-75	305
Shaun Micheel	71-77-78-79	305
Lee Janzen	74-76-75-80	305
Charley Hoffman	74-74-76-82	306
Dean Wilson	78-72-83-74	307
Woody Austin	71-76-76-84	307
Parker McLachlin	73-77-76-82	308
Anton Haig	71-79-83-78	311

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BSML STANDINGS

Rock Steady	9	0
Ford Rangers	6	3
Tanapag Falcons	6	3
San Roque D9ers	5	4
Koreans Dreams	5	5
Team Kabur	2	8
O'Conner Tigers	1	8

KIM

From Page 28

Iwabuchi and Sato each win $850 and trophies as champions. Jobe and Lum-Tucker, meanwhile, each won $500 and trophies as the runners-up.

Iwabuchi and Sato advanced to the doubles championship after beating Cho and Kim, 6-4, 6-4, last Saturday, while Jobe and Lum-Tucker posted a 6-4, 5-7 (10-6) victory over Choi and Park in the same day.

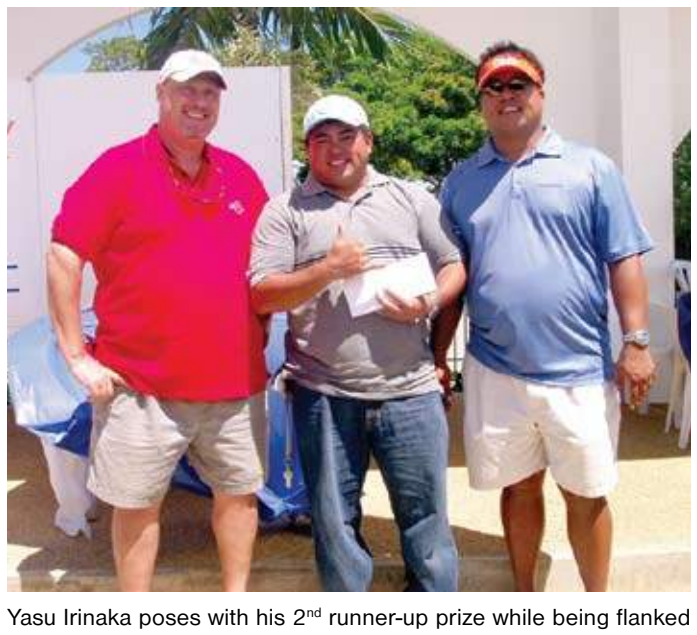
Two weeks earlier, former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup player Lency Tenai won the men's open singles as well as the doubles of the preliminary round of the 5th Annual Guam International Tennis Open.

Playing at the same hotel where he work as the tennis instructor under the Tennis Academy of Guam, Tenai won the men' singles championship after handily beating Shozo Nishiguchi, 6-2, 6-2, in the finals held last May 25.

Tenai earlier teamed up with Ken Klocke to win the men's doubles open, upending the tandem of Bill Camacho and Benjamin Dunn, 6-3, 6-2.

Golf tourney raises 10K for Chamber's scholarship fund

Jay Santos, second from left, and Vince Sablan, right, are all smiles after receiving their cash prizes for finishing third in the low net category of last Saturday's Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Also in photo is Chamber president James T. Arenovski.



Yasu Irinaka poses with his 2nd runner-up prize while being flanked by Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James T. Arenovski, left, and awards banquet host Jay Santos. Not in photo is Irinaka's partner P.J. Houn.

Zhang Hua Long was the lucky winner of the Hard Rock Café Saipan leather jacket that was raffled off during last Saturday's event. Joining him on the stage are Chamber president James T. Arenovski and HRC models.

Photos and Text By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is already looking forward to 2009 when it hosts the 2nd Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament after this year's inaugural tournament raised more than $10,000.

Chamber president James T. Arenovski said the 72 players that took part in last Saturday's competition at Laolao Bay Golf Resort was a good start, but he was more delighted about the money raised in the event.

"I think this is something we should do every year and it seems like it's a good fundraiser. We raised in excess of $10,000. That is a great chunk of money for the [Chamber's] scholarship fund," he said.

The pair of Kim Kyo Na and Zhang Hua Long won the low net double Peoria award of last Saturday's fundraising golf tournament. This after the duo tamed the greens and fairways with a net of 69, built around a gross of 63 (32-31) and a handicap of -6.

Jay Santos and Vince Seman finished runner-up in the low net category, firing a 69.20 after their gross of 74 (36-38) was sliced by their 4.8 handicap.

P.J. Houn and Yasu Irinaka wound up third with a net of 69.6. The duo recorded a gross of 66 (33-33) and had a handicap of -3.6.

Retired Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan and former national golfer Nick Sablan, meanwhile, took the plum after combining for a gross score of 64 (31-33).

They were followed by the tandem of Jeff Taylor and Adam Hardwicke with the pair of Ray San Nicolas and Ben Duenas settling for third place.

Taylor/Hardwicke and Nicolas/Duenas actually finished tied with identical gross scores of 66. The former, however, took runner-up honors on a scorecard tiebreak.

In the closest to the pin competition, Clarence Tenorio Jr. was without peer in hole No. 3, while Laolao Bay's Tom McKenzie won hole No. 7. Hole No. 13 belonged to Ed Manglona.

In the longest drive competition, none fared better than Federico Flores who drove the golf ball 280 yards out. Joun Park topped the most accurate drive in hole No. 17.

Zhan was also lucky as he won a Hard Rock Café leather jacket in a raffle participated in by golfers that wore HRC T-shirts in the golf course.

Retired Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan and former national golfer Nick Sablan show off their winnings after topping the low gross category of last Saturday's Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Joining them in photo are Chamber president James T. Arenovski, left, and awards banquet host Jay Santos.

Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament low gross runners-up Adam Hardwicke and Jeff Taylor receive their trophies during the awards banquet. Also in photo are Chamber president James T. Arenovski, left, and awards banquet host Jay Santos.

Ray San Nicolas and Ben Duenas show off their third place trophies during the awards banquet of last Saturday's Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament.

Kim Kyo Na and Zhang Hua Long show off their winnings after topping the low net category of last Saturday's Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Joining them in photo are Chamber president James T. Arenovski, left, and awards banquet host Jay Santos.

Clarence Tenorio Jr. was without peer in the closest to the pin competition in hole No. 3.

Ed Manglona goes up a few steps to draw level with Chamber president James T. Arenovski during the awards banquet of the Inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. Manglona won the closest to the pin in hole No. 13.

Federico Flores receives his longest drive cash prize from Chamber president James T. Arenovski.

Golf tourney raises 10K for Chamber's scholarship fund

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is already looking forward to 2009 when it hosts the 2nd Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament after this year's inaugural tournament raised more than $10,000. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Perry joins Tiger as only 3-time Memorial winners

Kenny Perry joined Tiger Woods as the only three-time winner of the Memorial on Sunday, taking a big step toward joining the No. 1 player in the world on the Ryder Cup team this fall. 24

Four Patriots headline Major All-Stars

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Fittingly so, four out of the 14 players selected for the Saipan Major League All-Stars come from the division's three-time champions Saipan-Cell Patriots.

Headlining this year's top 9-12-year-old ballplayers are Patriots flame-throwing pitcher Chris Mizer, third baseman Jeremy Rabauliman, shortstop Jared Sablan, and catcher Jun Rabauliman.

Sablan

Mizer

Jeremy Rabauliman

Jun Rabauliman

Joining them in the lineup are two Hustlers I pitchers Raymond Saralu and A.J. Lizama, Pirates infielders first baseman Frankie Camacho and second baseman Jonah Flores as well as Red Sox leftfielder Jerome Reyes, Little Lions centerfielder Keene Deleon Guerrero, PTI Dolphins rightfielder R.J. Knecht, Braves catcher Ricky Joe Riungel, and pitchers Jeremy Lizama of Ol'Aces and Poland Masaharu

See FOUR on Page 26

Falcons escape with 10-9 win over Dreams

MARK RABAGO

The Tanapag Falcons kept pace with second place Ford Rangers after nipping the Koreans Dreams, 10-9, in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League last Friday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Tanapag Falcons capitalized on miscues by the Korean Dreams to score a nail-biting 10-9 victory in extra innings as games in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League continued last Friday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

With the score all tied up at 9-9 at the bottom of the 10th inning, Dustin Quitano scored the winning run for the Falcons when the Dreams' third baseman overthrew to second base allowing the Tanapag second baseman to race all the way to home plate.

Earlier, Sid Sablan gave the Tanapag team a runner in first with no out on an error by infielder Joe Tenorio.

That was crucial as it opened things up for Quitano who reached base on a single although Sablan was tagged out at second on a fielder's choice.

The sacrifice would pay dividends later on, as J.R. Suel banged in a single that had Quitano scampering to second base.

The Dreams had all the time in the world to squeeze out a double play and extend the game to an 11th inning, but N. Otta's throw to Justin Reyes was a bit out of the second baseman's reach and the ball sailed toward right field.

See FALCONS on Page 26

Two win side events of Ayuda Mt. Bike Race

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Larry Malig and Nuradin Gutzwiller won the side events of last Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race.

Malig bested a six-person field in the eight-mile beginners' category of the event, while Gutzwiller won over two other competitors in the two-mile competition for children.

Racing through the finish with a time of 20:31, Malig was a mere six seconds ahead of eventual runner-up Nong Tatao (20:37), while accomplished runner Ronald Villafria came in third (21:01).

Alexander Guzman (22:54), Gary Bandoja (25:32), and the race's lone female cyclist, Betty Johnson (28:13), also took part in the race.

Gutzwiller, for his part, fin-

See TWO on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

Larry Malig won the beginners' category of Saturday's Inaugural Ayuda Charity Mountain Bike Race. Right, Nuradin Gutzwiller, left, Ernest Sablan, center, and Steven Goodwin finished 1-2-3 in the two-mile kids' race.

Kim successfull in defense of Challenge crown

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

For the second straight year, Dylan Seong Kwan Kim has won the singles competition of the 5th Annual Guam International Tennis Open's 16-player Male Singles Challenge Invitational and Eight-Team Men's Doubles Draw.

Kim, who is ranked 965 in singles and 1,406 in doubles, beat compatriot Min Hyeok Cho, 6-3, 6-2, in last Sunday's finale at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa.

The win allowed the 23-year-old Korean to once again raise the "Silver Loving Cup" trophy of the singles competition after winning it all in 2007.

Kim won $2,500 and a return trip to next year's tournament courtesy of Continental Airlines. Min Hyeok Cho took home $1,500 and a runner-up trophy.

He advanced to the championship round after beating Japan's Tetsuya Chaen in the semifinals late Saturday evening.

Chaen was the highest seed among the Final Four of the tournament at No. 527 in the ATP rankings. He, however, was also the oldest semifinalist at 35 years old.

Kim's finals opponent Cho, for his part, was the first to book a finals seat after the 21-year-old got the better of Jobe, who is No. 992 in the ATP rankings, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, last May 31.

In the doubles competition, Satoshi Iwabuchi and Hiroyasu Sato of Japan repulsed the Hawaiian pair of Ikaika Jobe and Brad Lum-Tucker, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

See KIM on Page 26